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Blair sets sights on new deal for schools

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR launched a personal crusade to transform school standards yesterday when he announced that a far-reaching Education Bill would be Labour's top priority.

"If we want to get this right, it has to be driven through from the top, no holds barred," Mr Blair said. "This is my passion." Education would dominate his agenda for the next decade and he intended to approach it with the same zeal that Margaret Thatcher had applied to the trade unions.

In the Eighties, whether you like it or not, the Conservatives drove through a programme of trade union reform," Mr Blair said in an interview with David Frost on BBC1. "In the late 1990s, and

which will require primary legislation, include:

- National minimum homework requirements — from 30 minutes a night for seven-year-olds to 90 minutes for secondary pupils;
- Home-school contracts signed by teachers and parents specifying the work required;
- National literacy targets, now being developed by a task force chaired by the educationist Michael Barber;
- Assessment of children's reading ability on entry to primary schools, and three-week "literacy summer schools" before secondary school;
- Cutting primary school class sizes to 30, using funds from abolishing the assisted places scheme for private schools;
- Providing nursery education for all four-year-olds, and scrapping the Tories' voucher scheme;
- Enabling head teachers of successful schools temporarily to take over the running of neighbouring failing schools;
- Requiring every head teacher to be properly qualified for the job before getting it.

Labour also aims to ensure that in ten years' time no child should enter secondary school with below-standard English skills — at the moment 40 per cent of children fail to reach the required level.

Teaching organisations gave Mr Blair's proposals a mixed reception. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Some ideas we would welcome, like class sizes and head teachers' qualifications. But Mr Blair fails to realise just how reform-weary teachers are. Without additional resources a lot of the reforms he proposes are just pie in the sky."

David Hart of the National Association of Head Teachers was delighted that Mr Blair had recognised the importance of education, but added: "Tony Blair has to recognise that an incoming Labour government must address the current crisis affecting teacher recruitment, retention and motivation, otherwise its education policies will come to nothing."

Mr Blair also used his interview to reiterate his determination to frustrate government business in the parliamentary session starting today. He aims to do all he can to force a confidence vote if he thinks the opposition parties will unite to defeat the Government, but Labour sources said last night that he did not expect to be able to do that in the near future. MPs would therefore concentrate on trying to inflict minor defeats.

early part of the next millennium, I want the next Labour government to be every bit as committed and determined and passionate about driving through education reform in this country. If at the end of five years we have made an definable difference to the way our children are educated in this country, we will have done something of which we can be proud."

But Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary dismissed Mr Blair's remarks as hot air. Labour had consistently opposed Tory measures to raise standards but had now identified areas where the Government was already taking action, she said.

Labour's proposals, some of

which will require primary legislation, include:

Mr Blair was forced to land in the Algerian desert after 20 hours said: "I know how they must feel. Both attempts show how difficult it is to pull this off. But the race is back on."

An American millionaire, Steve Fossett, is preparing to leave on a similar attempt from the United States later this month.

Virgin Challenger engineers

are flying back to Algeria today to retrieve the black box data log

from the capsule of the balloon,

which is under military protection

in the desert.

Both attempts show how difficult it is to pull this off. But the race is back on."

Mr Branson's capsule, which

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Veto would be retained by each member state, but opt-outs made easier

Major devises a compromise plan for EU flexibility

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN ISLAMABAD

A COMPROMISE aimed at breaking the deadlock over Europe's direction and binding Tory party wounds is to be proposed by John Major to his European Union partners.

The Prime Minister is laying ideas for a multi-speed Europe that would allow Britain and other countries greater flexibility to opt out of European Union activities and policies that they were happy to see the rest pursuing.

All countries would retain the veto to stop small or elite groups pressing ahead with policies that they regarded as dangerous or unsuitable for the European Union.

The Prime Minister claimed yesterday to have found a way of resolving the serious dispute at the heart of the European Union over the speed at which it should develop and integrate. Although he declined to "show my negotiating hand" by giving full details, Mr Major clearly indicated that he believes there can be agreement over a formula by which countries can choose their own pace of development.

But it was also evident that he is standing firmly in the way of a Franco-German flexibility plan that would allow a hardcore of European nations to go ahead on their own in any area they choose. That idea has emerged as a way of stopping Britain standing in the way of the more federalist ambitions of many of its EU partners. There had been fears that such a plan, when allied with the single currency, would effectively lead to the

creation of a powerful economic government within Europe.

In what he described as a new negotiation, rather than a re-negotiation, of membership terms, Mr Major said that the EU could not continue in its present form as its membership grew to 20 and then 25 members. It would have to be more flexible.

Mr Major, talking to reporters as he flew from Dhaka to Islamabad for the final stage of his tour of the subcontinent, appears to have broadened his proposal for a flexible EU, which was first floated in his Leiden lecture two years ago. He believes that countries that want to form an inner core on certain policy areas should only be allowed to do so if the rest agree. Britain and other countries would preserve a veto that would stop countries going it alone if it was felt that such a move was undesirable for the future of the EU.

He appears to have embraced a system of "multiple opt-outs" to cover areas where there is no objection to a group going ahead on their own. He went on: "That is going to accelerate in future as the EU enlarges. As we see it accelerate, there is greater scope for countries taking part in those aspects of EU activity that are in their own interest but not being dragged into parts that are unpalatable to them." Mr Major admitted that his message would not be easy for some countries to swallow, clearly referring to France and Germany. But he added: "It is the only way the EU will be able to develop in the years ahead."

Mr Major discussed proposals for a flexible Europe with Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, who holds the presidency of the EU for the next six months, before he left for India last week. They



John Major with Malik Meraf Khalid, Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister, in Islamabad yesterday

Tories may put Tube sell-off in manifesto

By IAN MURRAY

THE privatisation of London Underground could be included in the Conservative Party's election manifesto in an attempt to win votes from its 1.6 million users. "It might be a vote-winner in the context of getting much-needed investment without calling on the taxpayer, getting the money sooner and improving some aspects of management," John Bowis, the Transport Minister, said yesterday.

The idea has the strong backing of the Prime Minister, who told last year's party conference that he would like to see if the principle of rail privatisation could be applied to the Tube system.

Transport ministry officials have been ordered to investigate ways of finding private finance both to replace the £350 million annual government grant needed to keep the system operating at present levels and to raise the £1.25 billion required to meet the backlog of urgent repairs and maintenance work.

The sale could include 254 miles of track and tunnels, 271 stations and 460 trains. One unofficial estimate is that the sale could realise £13 billion. Glenda Jackson, the Shadow Transport Minister, said: "The only way the kind of capital investment needed can be raised is through a joint public and private venture."

David Chidgey, Liberal Democrat transport spokesman, said: "The Tories are sacrificing the safety of millions to fund short-term tax bribes. Fragmentation of the system will do nothing to improve service."

Leading article, page 19

Cherie Booth tells of shock at wife-battering

Cherie Booth, QC, Tony Blair's wife, has told how she has been threatened with violence by battered wives' husbands and had to seek protection. The horrific bruises and scars suffered by victims of domestic violence were brought home to her when she met them in court, she told the magazine *Good Housekeeping*. "Frightened women would tell me of partners who had raped or sexually abused them." She added: "I was threatened, but the court staff protected me. My clients faced the prospect of living with violence at home where there would be no one to protect them."

Ms Booth, a trustee of the battered wives charity Refuge, said she could still remember the shock of first discovering what can happen to women in their own homes.

Lawrence widow fights sleaze

Frances Lawrence, widow of the murdered headmaster Philip, is to support a new campaign, The People's Trust, to put morality at the heart of government policy-making. The organisation, also supported by Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, will be formally launched in the next few weeks. It is calling for MPs to declare financial interests before the election, and wants constitutional reform, especially on the funding of political parties.

Freighter runs down trawler

A search was launched last night for a freighter that failed to stop after running down a fishing boat. The 100ft trawler *Sparkling Star* was holed and masts and other communication equipment ripped off in a collision with a much larger vessel 30 miles southeast of Start Point in Devon. None of the seven Scottish crew was hurt. The Marine Safety Agency and marine accident investigation branch are trying to identify the freighter.

Girls' A levels upgraded

Half of 42 students from King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls in Birmingham who sat A-level English last year have been awarded higher grades by the Associated Examining Board after a mistake in marking meant some missed their preferred places at university. The regrading came after a five-month fight by Joan Fisher, the headteacher, which began after the school's results were worse than in previous years.

Oxford place for girl, 12

A girl aged 12 has won a place at Oxford University to read mathematics. Sufia Yusuf, from Northampton, will equal the record set by Ruth Lawrence 13 years ago when she takes her place at St Hilda's, the all-female college, in September. She requires another A level in maths, which she is expected to pass next month. The girl, also a talented tennis player, was tutored at home by her parents.

Man is found dead in flat

A man has been found stabbed to death at his flat in Hastings, East Sussex. Police officers found the body of Alistair Rattray, 53, late on Friday night. A post-mortem examination disclosed that he had died from stab wounds to the neck. Sussex police said yesterday that a 23-year-old man who lives in Hastings had been arrested and was being interviewed.

High-tech school dinners

Parents will be able to buy electronic "smart cards" for their children to pay for school dinners at the Garibaldi School in Forest Town, Nottinghamshire. The pupils will no longer be able to spend dinner money at the chip shop or sweet store, and parents will be able to programme the card so it will not buy certain foods. Parents will be sent prints showing what their children have eaten.

Cathedral floor broken up

Work on tearing up and replacing the uneven sandstone flagstones of Chester Cathedral to install underfloor heating begins today. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings led a campaign to save the 220-year-old floor, describing it as one of the building's most striking features. The architectural historian Gavin Stamp said the floor was "the English equivalent of that of St Mark's in Venice".

Alert on sesame allergy

Up to 30,000 people in Britain suffer from a little-known allergy to sesame seeds yet the use of the seeds — for flavouring, decoration and in foreign cuisine — is increasing, studies have found. Sufferers are generally older than reported for peanut allergy cases and the allergy could begin at any time of life, rather than in childhood, as is usually the case with peanuts.

Attack claim at Prince's hunt

Police are investigating claims by a hunt protester that she was attacked by a steward in front of the Prince of Wales. Kate Maynard, 28, said she was put in a headlock as Prince Charles rode towards her, wrestled to the ground and had sand pushed in her mouth to stop her shouting at the Middleton Hunt, which met on the Earl of Halifax's estate in Bugthorpe near York on Saturday.

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Retired
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Exam failure se

Labour pledge to ban foreign donations for political parties

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would make it illegal for political parties to accept money from foreign donors, Tony Blair said yesterday amid Labour claims that much of the Tories' new advertising campaign was funded by overseas sources.

Mr Blair made clear that he would seek to ban such donations. "We believe there is a very strong case for making illegal the funding of political parties from abroad," he told BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*.

The Labour Party already declines money from overseas

donors, and names all those who give donations more than £5,000. It has also called for the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life to investigate party funding.

Funding of political parties should be open, it should be transparent, and there should not be money taken from abroad, because it's quite wrong," Mr Blair said. "This applies not just to the Tory party but to the Referendum Party: no one will buy or can buy the British electorate."

Funding for Mr Blair's private office will come under

Blair pushes ahead with NEC reform

By JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR is drawing up plans to reduce the power of the party's National Executive Committee and transform the annual conference.

Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, is studying proposals to avoid facing clashes with the party's ruling body, and to prevent conferences being dominated by perennial in-fighting over the same issues.

An interim report will be put to the NEC this month, but some leftwingers have already given warning that they will

resist the changes. They argue that the reforms, to be finalised after the election, will lead to more centralisation, giving Tony Blair a much bigger powerbase.

But the Labour leader yesterday emphasised that the changes were being pushed through by the party rather than himself "to make sure that Labour government functions well." It was vital to ensure that "we have a structure that means all the way through, Labour is still representing the voice of the British people."

Her colleagues are planning to visit PC Coulton in the next couple of days to help to comfort him. He was routinely interviewed by detectives yesterday, who said they were not linking the murder to any others in the area in the past few years.

Detectives say Mrs Coulton had been in a cheerful mood when she arrived for work at 4.30pm on Friday. Earlier that day she had booked a holiday with her husband and was excited about her forthcoming trip.

More than 20 detectives and other uniformed constables from Thames Valley and the Metropolitan Police were drafted into the murder investi-

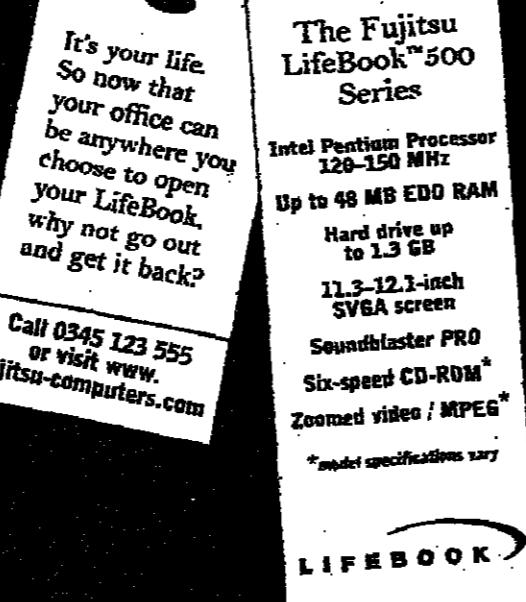
gation yesterday. Geoffrey Atkinson, the director of the nursing home, said colleagues were finding news of Mrs Coulton's death hard to accept. "She was a super carer,

she always gave 101 per cent, both when working and at fund-raising events. She was well loved by residents and colleagues alike. We are all very shocked."

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PC Coulton is a member of Scotland Yard's SO14 royalty protection division responsible for the security of the Royal Family and their homes.

Get a life!



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مكتبة من الأصل

IRA accused of callous disregard for villagers

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA was accused yesterday of endangering the lives of an entire community after mortar bombs were fired at a police station.

Terrorists used two mark 15 mortars, described as difficult to aim, for the attack on Saturday evening in the village of Tempo, Co Fermanagh. One of the bombs smashed into the roof of the unarmed police station and the second overshot the building.

Parents were waiting yards away to collect children from a dance class. Neither of the devices exploded and nobody was injured.

Superintendent James Baxter said that the terrorists had put everyone in the village at risk: "Mark 15 mortars are notoriously inaccurate. The terrorists were only interested in bringing death and destruction to a quiet rural village where there are good community relations."

The IRA gave warning yesterday that it would kill anyone who thwarted their attacks during the holiday.

to the RUC. It is understood that a series of attacks in Belfast was abandoned recently because Catholics had reported suspicious activity to the police.

A statement to the *Andersonstown News* in West Belfast read: "The Belfast Brigade of the IRA has become aware that a number of people in the Belfast area have compromised operations and placed the lives of volunteers in danger. These individuals have informed the RUC of the presence of volunteers in our area ... The IRA will take action against anyone placing the lives of our volunteers in danger in this way."

It is understood that terrorists abandoned a 1,000lb bomb near Belfast Castle after the police were tipped off by a man attending a function at the castle.

■ Multiparty talks at Stormont resume today after the Christmas recess. The Democratic Unionists are likely to call for fringe loyalist parties to be expelled after two loyalist attacks during the holiday.



The burnt-out remains of the van used for the mortar attack on Tempo police station



Santa wasn't the only one who visited over 5,000 homes this Christmas.

When your central heating breaks down at Christmas, there's nothing more welcoming than the sight of a British Gas Service Engineer. On Christmas Day, we made 2,139 emergency calls (and another 3,463 on Boxing Day), which is all part of our 365 day, round-the-clock, Celsia Three Star Service. Granted, our bags were full of tools rather than presents,

but we like to think that these special visits brought some of our customers a little extra Christmas cheer. If you'd like all-year peace of mind for your central heating, please call 0345 754 754. (Please quote ref WSPR.)

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Union tells teachers to inform on parents using vouchers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S biggest teaching union is urging its members to inform on parents who intend to use nursery vouchers to transfer their children from state nursery schools.

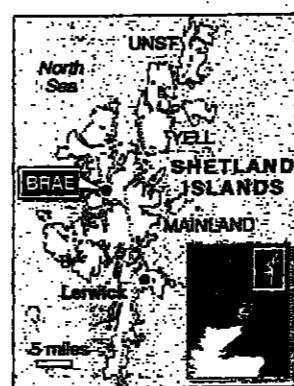
The National Union of Teachers is distributing a leaflet to local authority nursery and primary schools which could arouse fears among parents that their children might be penalised for attending private nurseries if they apply subsequently for a state school place. It says: "Where teachers become aware that the voucher scheme is likely to encourage the transfer of any of their schools' four-year-old pupils by parents to other forms of provision, they should immediately inform their headteachers."

Nursery vouchers worth £1,100 are being posted to parents of four-year-olds this week. About 30,000 state and private providers have applied to join the system. The NUT pamphlet says that standards

it offers to private providers to undermine provision in maintained schools."

The NUT has threatened industrial action if jobs or working conditions are jeopardised when the scheme comes into operation in April. Members have been advised to contact regional officials if they believe that excessive administrative workload is caused. Doug McAvoy, the NUT general secretary, said: "Teachers are in nursery schools to teach, not to cope with the excessive paperwork coming from a politically motivated change which brings no educational benefit."

The Education and Employment Department said state and private providers would be subject to the same quality checks. "The aim is to give parents choice. Parents, not administrators, are best placed to decide what sort of nursery education, whether school, nursery or playgroup, is most suitable."



'Cheaper tourists clogging streets'

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

TourISTS arriving on ferries and Eurostar who spend little, enjoy free attractions, and clog up the streets of historic cities should be taxed on entering the country, according to the foreword of the official handbook of Britain published today.

High-spending tourists, on the other hand, should be encouraged for the positive economic benefits they bring.

The Earl of Bradford, author of the foreword, writes of the danger of the uncontrolled invasion of tourists in places such as Canterbury, Oxford and York amid of the traffic nightmare in London during busy times. A major problem facing the capital was trying to differentiate between those tourists bringing positive economic benefits and those that "merely clog up the streets".

"Coaches full of day-trippers from across the Channel, arriving with their packed lunches and itineraries of free attractions, could actually end up costing the country more than they bring in."

Lord Bradford, writing in a personal capacity, adds: "Perhaps those arriving via ferry terminals and Eurotunnel should, like airline passengers, be obliged to pay some sort of tax, so that the country would at least be assured of a contribution towards the infrastructure costs generated by the cheaper traveller."

Lord Bradford, who manages his family estate in Shropshire and owns a restaurant in Covent Garden, told *The Times* that it was very noticeable that many people were coming by coach for a day trip. "They have very often got their own packed lunch. They bring very little economic benefit. But one high-spending US tourist could be worth ten times in economic value of the coachload coming just for the free attractions."

The handbook is widely used as a reference work abroad and the Central Office of Information emphasised that Lord Bradford's foreword was his own viewpoint.

New clue to extent of man's vanity

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BRACELET made 4,000 years ago which was discovered on a remote Scottish island is believed to have travelled 750 miles from the South of England, casting new light on the vanity of prehistoric man.

The bracelet is one of only a few in Scotland to be discovered intact from the period 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. It was found by archaeology students from Edinburgh University excavating a Bronze Age home on Uig on the west side of the Isle of Lewis. The only route to the island was a causeway that gave it protection from enemies and wild animals such as wolves.

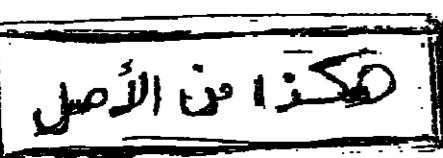
Made from shale, the bracelet was found a few inches beneath the surface close to a wall near the entrance to the

small oval home. The dwelling has also revealed pottery, hammer stones and some metal work.

The nearest place for shale is several hundred miles away across the sea at Gaspé on Scotland's east coast. But tests have now revealed that the shale in the bracelet is not from that site, but from a type found in the South of England. The bracelet is evidence that a trade in exotic goods existed 4,000 years ago and was made possible by perilous journeys across the Minch.

Chris Burgess, one of the archaeologists, said that the bracelet could have been worn by a woman or a man, but was clearly a status symbol. "To have travelled so far it was clearly an important gift and a quite remarkable journey," he said.

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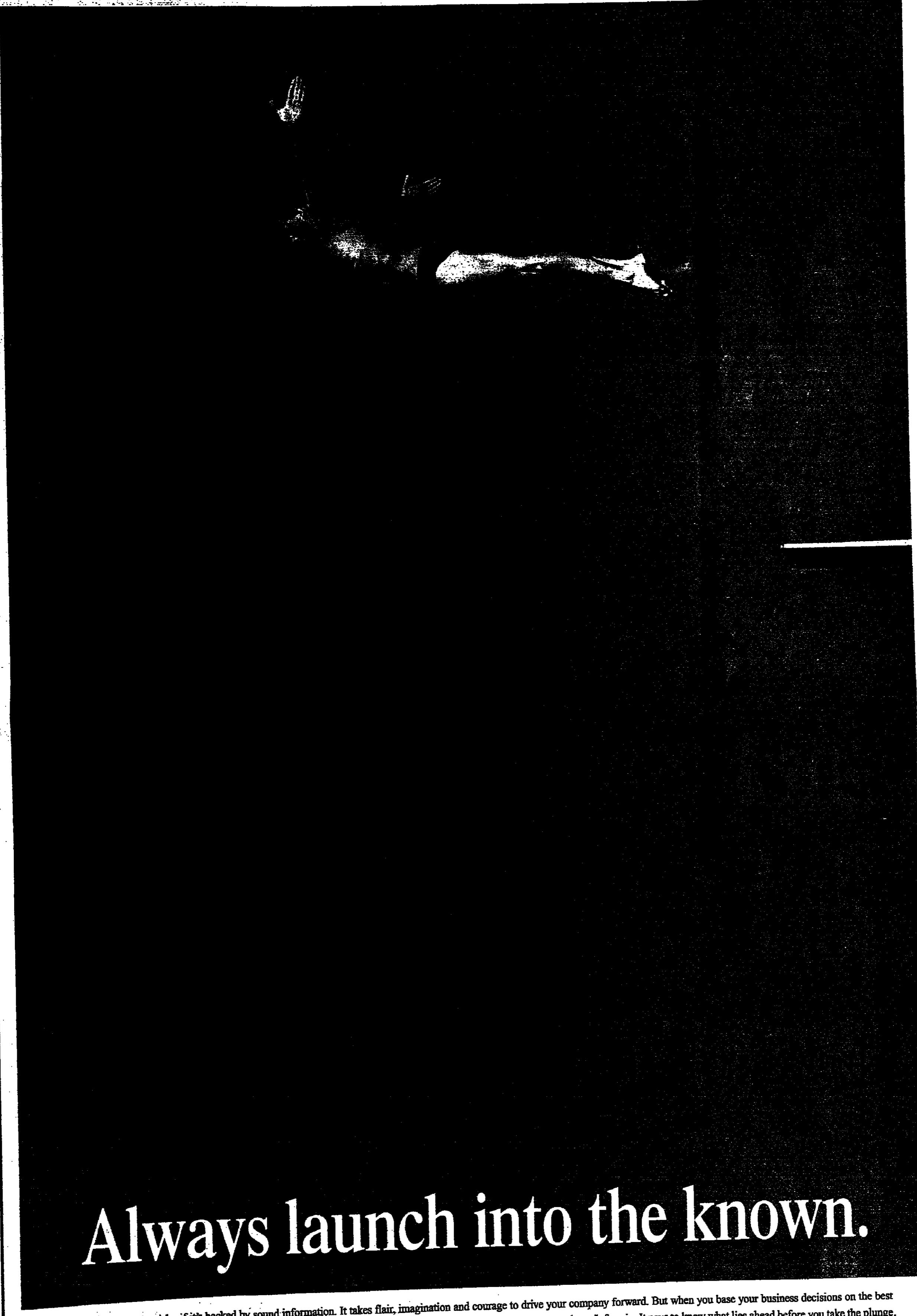
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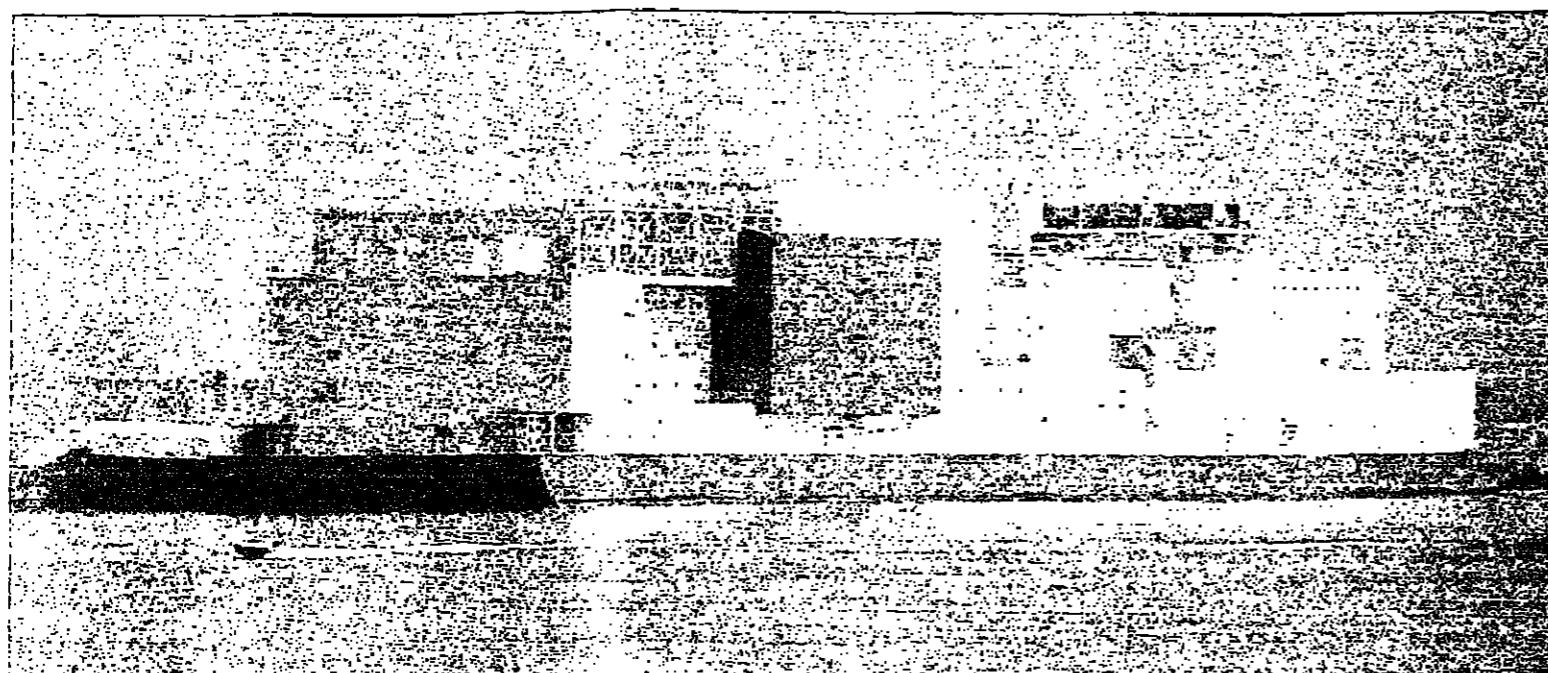
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A New York prison barge like the one to be moored at Portland Harbour to house alleged illegal immigrants and bogus asylum-seekers

Overcrowded jails force ministers to target detainees

Prison ship for asylum-seekers

By RICHARD FORD AND IAN MURRAY

HUNDREDS of immigration detainees and asylum-seekers are to be held in a prison ship to ease overcrowding in jails in England and Wales. The plan to lock up the detainees on the ship has been made because the Prison Service fears other groups of prisoners would revolt and threaten the vessel's security.

Officials ruled out holding the more dangerous Category A and B inmates and are concerned that if low-risk inmates rebelled there could be control problems because of the narrow gangways. It is understood they feel that immigration and asylum-detainees are more docile.

Ministers have given approval for alleged illegal immigrants and bogus asylum-seekers to be detained on the floating prison *Resolution*, which the Prison Service intends to moor in Portland Harbour, Dorset. Transferring immigration detainees to the ship will free hundreds of places in prisons for convicted

criminals but the decision was bitterly criticised by penal reformers and immigrant welfare organisations.

Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said last night: "The Prison Service is as ashamed of the lengths to which it must go to deal with the record jail population that it is looking to the most vulnerable group to lock up on the ship. It is doing this because it fears that every other group of prisoners would rebel if put on the vessel."

In 1987, immigration detainees were held on board the *Earl William*, a former Sealink ferry. It was moored off Harwich in Essex but went adrift during a hurricane.

That time immigration detainees would be moved from Haslar holding centre at Gosport in Hampshire, two wings at Rochester jail in Kent and from one wing at Birmingham prison. All the free accommodation would then be used to deal with the record numbers in jail, a figure predicted to

reach 60,000 by March. Unless extra prison space is found, the Prison Service will have to resort to holding offenders in police cells.

First, however, the service has to overcome obstacles in securing the *Resolution*, currently moored on the Hudson River, near New York. It is understood that difficulties have developed in the negotiations for the vessel. The Prison Service wants only to lease the vessel, which provided accommodation on five decks for soldiers after the Falklands war, and would float it across the Atlantic even before approval from Weymouth and Portland Borough Council.

It does not need formal planning permission to moor the vessel in Portland Harbour or to use existing buildings for storage and a visitors' centre. But the service has followed normal practice in consulting the local authority and is anxious to win its backing. A 5 metre-high fence topped by razor wire would be erected

around the site. The council's planning committee will decide on February 5 how to respond after receiving a report from Richard Burgess, the planning officer, on the problems of sewage disposal, fire precautions and mooring security.

If plans go ahead the prison ship will be moored just along the harbour from the Royal



Shaw: said the Prison Service feared rebellion

Dorset Yacht Club, the chosen British challenger for the next series of America's Cup races.

There is little enthusiasm for the idea on the hung council. Roy Gaine, leader of Labour, the largest group, said: "I don't think it is a good advert for the town to have a prison ship tied up here. We have a tourist trade and I can't see that as an attraction. There are already three within an eight-mile radius of here."

Bob Beare, the Liberal-Democrat leader, said: "We have put in a bid for the area to be recognised as a World Heritage coastline and there are plans to build an attractive marina here. I am not sure you can get world recognition for a coastline with a prison ship and I can't believe that yacht owners would want to moor their boats close to one."

Victoria Copley of English Nature said: "Our main concern is what will happen to the sewage. The harbour has a deep muddy bottom, unique in England, and is a perfect habitat for fragile animals and plants."

Height survey gives no reason to think big



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

MORE than 30 years ago, research at the Tavistock Clinic in London confirmed that tall people are more likely than short people to be selected for jobs and career promotions. It seemed that some of the stock breeder's prejudice against the smallest in the litter had spread to personnel departments. But is there any justification for associating very short stature with less intelligence, poor adaptation to society, aberrant behaviour or a lack of self-respect?

A study was started in

Winchester and Southampton in 1986 to follow the life-style, intellectual and psychological development of abnormally short children of both sexes. The survey now involves 106 such children and 119 controls. They are being compared from the start of their primary schooling to the end of full-time education at 16 or older.

The children come from all classes, whereas previous research was mainly confined to those of short stature who had been referred to paediatricians. Since height is more of an anxiety for middle-class than working-class parents and children, the earlier studies contained an unusually high proportion of middle-class young, and had not been conducted with adequate control groups.

In the course of the *Wessex Growth Study*, 21 of the children have dropped out for treatment with growth hormone, and have not been included. They are a potential source of error in the trial.

The first report in 1989-91, after the children started their primary schooling, showed that height had made no difference to the development, and any differences could be accounted for by differences in social class.

A second assessment, published in the *BMJ*, was made in 1994-95 when the children were leaving their primary schools to go to senior schools, has shown greater variations, some of which are statistically sig-

nificant. However, the research team conclude that the results still provide only limited support to the widely held belief that short children are at a disadvantage.

There are minor differences in intelligence, reading ability and numeracy in which the short children did less well but these could still be more closely related to the social background of the child than to its height.

In particular, children at the age of 11-13 did not seem to lack self-esteem because they were short. Although 87 per cent of the short children would have liked to have been taller, they were more likely to be pleased with their appearance than the control group.

Size is so revered that 41 per cent of those children who are considered to be of normal height by their doctors would also have liked to be taller.

The behaviour of the short children was no worse than that of the taller children. This has been reported in previous surveys but it is assumed that the more disadvantaged children were referred for a consultant opinion.

Between the height of girls and the start of their periods, the boys were still pre-pubertal and had not yet reached their adult growth spurt.

The pioneering psychiatrist Alfred Adler theorised that feelings or otherwise of human inferiority are the key to individual psychology. It was his opinion that a conscious, or unconscious, attempt to compensate or over-compensate for any inferiority complex stemming from a physical or mental disadvantage creates the office Napoleon, the Don Juan, and the domineering or professional bully and loudmouth.

The children in this survey are nearing an age when height may have an effect on feelings of sexual attractiveness. It may be that the next assessment — when the children are 16 — will show striking differences.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Accused nurses visited by relatives

Relatives of Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Parry, the two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia, visited them at a police headquarters yesterday.

The parents of Ms McLaughlin, 31, and relatives of Ms Parry, 31, had separate meetings with the pair at Dammam. John Ashby, Ms Parry's brother-in-law, said she was "very upset that anybody could think she could have done this. She was crying. I was crying."

Irish closure

The Irish branch of Greenpeace, the international environmental group, is likely to close because it has failed to pay its way or attract sufficient members since the Dublin office was set up in 1991. The office is fighting closure and its fate will be decided soon.

Widow's award

Dianne Robinson has won substantial damages from British Rail 11 years after her husband Terence, 44, fell to his death from a vandalised footbridge at Retford, Nottinghamshire. She said the tragedy could have been avoided if the bridge had been lit.

Birds buzz M4

Police urged drivers on the M4 in South Wales not to be alarmed by buzzards swooping over the motorway. The birds of prey, with 5ft wingspans, had been forced by the cold weather to leave the frozen hillsides and search the motorway verges for food.

Climber hurt

Patricia Appleton, 43, survived with a broken leg and wrist after falling 600ft while mountaineering with friends on Am Bodach, Glencoe. The mother-of-two, an office manager and marathon runner from Ormskirk, refused painkillers from her rescuers.

Lottery winners

Five winners shared Saturday's £9.8 million National Lottery jackpot (£1,964,980 each): 24 matched five plus bonus ball (£125,960); 1,333 matched five (£1417); 67,376 matched four (£61) and 1,221,946 matched three. Winning numbers, page 22

Moon shines

Chris Moon, a disabled former British soldier and mine clearance expert, finished the first Phnom Penh International Marathon in six hours and 20 minutes, less than two years after losing his right leg and forearm in a mine blast in Mozambique.

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1. Power bath and walk-in

US mediator delays return to Washington after Jordan convenes hasty summit with Israeli leader

King Husain steps in to save talks over Hebron

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LAST-DITCH efforts to save the Middle East peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians were being made last night at a summit between King Husain of Jordan and Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

News of the hastily convened meeting was disclosed by Jordan hours after an announcement that Dennis Ross, the United States peace envoy, was due to return to Washington. Last night, however, Mr Ross was said to have cancelled those plans. His decision could have resulted from King Husain's summit effort. A US official said there could be "a meeting between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat" today.

The emergency summit came after King Husain's first official visit to the Gaza Strip yesterday for talks with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President. Mr Arafat's top aides have issued a warning of potential "explosions" if rapid action is not taken to save the peace process.

King Husain stepped in and

was trying to exert his influence after Mr Ross' failure to bridge the wide differences between Israel and the Palestinians.

The American failure to effect a Hebron withdrawal and shore-up the wider Middle East peace process led Egypt to warn Israel that their 1979 peace treaty would end if there was no deal with Syria.

Shortly before the Husain-Netanyahu summit was announced, Nabil Shaath, a leading Palestinian minister, appealed to President Clinton to intervene to save the peace accord, originally signed on the White House lawn in 1993.

The Palestinians have accused Mr Netanyahu of renegotiating on clauses in the accord that they claimed required Israeli troops to evacuate from 80 per cent of the West Bank by last September. Israel insists on delaying the move by two years to May 1999.

The Palestinian Authority appealed yesterday for European help to save the peace process before frustration among its people led to re-



Yasser Arafat and King Husain in the Gaza Strip meet Rabbi Moshe Hirsch of Neturah Karta, an anti-Zionist group

newed violence. There is a crisis in the Israeli-Palestinian talks," it said. "If the international community does not move immediately to save the peace process ... then the whole region will witness explosions."

Palestinian officials had accused Mr Ross of a pro-Israel bias for his proposal of a compromise date of 1998 for the three further Israeli withdrawals that should follow the exit from Hebron.

Hasan Asfour, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, told Voice of Palestine radio that American mediation had been forced on the Palestinians. He said that under the new state of crisis "all options are open, and it is difficult to determine one future path for certain. We are at a very dangerous situation, and a grave one politically."

Egypt's warning about the possible collapse of the 1979 Camp David peace treaty, the first between Israel and an Arab state, was delivered by Muhammad Bassyouni, the Egyptian Ambassador in Tel Aviv. It came after Israeli military concern about large-scale Egyptian military exercises and a series of anti-Semitic attacks on Mr Netanyahu in the Egyptian media.

In an interview with *HaShava*, a right-wing Israeli paper, the envoy said: "The agreement between Egypt and Israel will collapse should

Israel not sign an agreement with Syria."

The warning came after sabre-rattling between Jerusalem and Damascus, which accused Israel of being behind a bus bomb in the Syrian capital on New Year's Eve which killed 13 people and wounded 40. Mr Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected the Syrian condition for renewed peace talks — a pledge to hand back the strategic Golani Heights, captured in 1967.

Foreign officials scramble to sway American policy

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WITH hopes of a Middle East peace plummeting, the region's top diplomats have made unprecedented efforts to influence American policy.

President Clinton was under increasing pressure last night from Arabs to exert pressure on the Government of Binyamin Netanyahu to withdraw Israeli troops from Hebron.

Concerned by the meeting that Mr Clinton granted Hebron Ashrafi, the Palestinian Authority's Education Minister, last week, Elieh Ben-Eliassar, the Israeli Ambassador to America, made a highly provocative attack against Egypt, accusing Cairo of encouraging Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, of stalling on a Hebron deal and of urging other Arab countries not to normalise relations with Jerusalem.

"Unfortunately, the Egyptians have not been enthusiastic during this process for their own reasons," he said. "Israel's road to normal relations [with Oman and Qatar] has stalled ... we have found some Egyptian fingerprints along the way."

Yesterday, Ahmed Maher el-Sayed, the Egyptian Ambassador to America, described the allegations against his country as entirely baseless. "Egypt is steadfast

in the quest for peace, even when Israelis complain it is a cold peace," he said. "We agreed to normal relations ... until this new Israeli Government, there was steady movement towards trust and understanding."

During the past years of the Clinton Administration, the region's diplomats have been careful not to enter the fray. But the distrust between all sides is clear in their latest attempts to influence the thinking of the President.

Mr Clinton, who is eager to make his mark by achieving a breakthrough in Middle East peace, is known to be unhappy with the course that has been taken by the Government of Mr Netanyahu.



Ashrafi: was granted a meeting with Clinton

Tide turns against Clinton over sex harassment suit

BY TOM RHODES

AMERICAN opinion is turning against President Clinton over the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit which is to be considered by the Supreme Court today.

Two separate polls to be published this morning show that a majority of Americans would not delay the case brought by Mrs Jones, 39, a former Arkansas state government employee, and that more than a third of the public now believe Mr Clinton did sexually harass her.

Two years ago less than a third of the population believed the claim by Mrs Jones that in 1991 she was led by Mr Clinton, then Governor, in his room at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock.

Once alone in his suite, she alleges, the Governor started kissing her neck before he dropped his trousers and un-

buttoned and asked her to perform oral sex. Mr Clinton has said he does not remember the incident.

The Supreme Court will today consider whether to allow the case to proceed while Mr Clinton is still in office. Mrs Jones is seeking \$700,000 (£420,000) damages for defamation and violation of her civil rights.

A Time/CNN survey found that 56 per cent of Americans felt Mrs Jones should be allowed to continue with her suit. A separate poll conducted by Newsweek showed that 37 per cent of the population believe Mrs Jones compared with 23 per cent two years ago.

Mrs Jones has ordered her lawyers to "get me my day in court" while Mr Clinton is using a legal team whose costs so far have risen to at least \$1.5 million. Costs are being met by two insurance

companies and a multi-million-dollar fund.

Until very recently Mrs Jones had failed to influence public opinion although at least two of her close friends and two relatives have said she described the encounter with Mr Clinton to them on the day it allegedly happened.

A former boyfriend had sold partially nude photographs of her to *Penthouse* magazine and her older sister and brother-in-law expressed scepticism about her story. But articles in *Newsweek* and the *American Lawyer* have given greater credence to her claims, sparking a bitter response from Clinton supporters.

"The amount of revisionist history going on in this case is astounding," said George Stephanopoulos, the adviser who recently left the White House but will be at the Supreme Court today.

Black war veteran to receive top medal

BY TOM RHODES

MORE than half a century after the event, a former US Army lieutenant today becomes the only living black soldier who served in the Second World War to receive the country's most prestigious battlefield medal.

Vernon Baker, 77, will be awarded the Medal of Honour at a White House ceremony. Six of his black compatriots are to receive the decoration posthumously.

The awards are being made after a special team of military historians in the United States concluded that segregation and the prevailing attitude at the time had resulted in none of the 1.7 million serving blacks receiving any of the 432 medals awarded during the war.

Mr Baker was a lieutenant in the all-black 92nd Infantry called the Buffalo Division when on April 5, 1945, his platoon of 25 men was ordered to lead the fight for Castel Aghinolfi, a German stronghold in Italy. Lieutenant Baker and his men destroyed five German machinegun nests and an artillery observation bun-



Baker: "I did my job and was rewarded"

Deal puts Disney boss in fairytale pay league

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

THE Walt Disney Company has shown that nothing pays like wholesome family entertainment, renewing its chairman's contract for ten years on terms that could push his total earnings close to a billion dollars.

Michael Eisner has turned Disney into the world's most profitable entertainment empire since taking on the ailing concern in 1984. In return for agreeing to stay until 2006 he has been promised shares and cash worth more than \$200 million (£118 million), excluding bonuses that last year alone amounted to a further \$7.9 million.

Announcing Mr Eisner's deal, the company gave his new batch of eight million Disney share options a hypothetical value of \$195 million, though if he sustains recent growth rates they could be worth far more by the time he is free to cash them in.

Mr Eisner, who two years ago underwent multiple heart-bypass surgery, is estimated to have reaped \$600 million so far, including \$303 million in stock options that matured in September. He is among America's most scrutinised and envied executives.

He has brought vast profits through the relentless global promotion of Disney icons from Mickey Mouse to *Toy Story's* Buzz Lightyear from celluloid to cuddly toys.

His Achilles' heel, analysts say, is the lack of an heir — a problem that worsened last month when Michael Ovitz, his friend and second-in-command, left after 14 months.

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Students with opposition banners march through Sofia yesterday in new demonstrations in favour of early elections after Friday's clashes between police and protesters

100,000 Sofia marchers demand poll

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN SOFIA

BULGARIA'S ruling Socialists, under pressure from hundreds of thousands of demonstrators, last night agreed to talks with the opposition on its demand for early elections. But Georgi Parvanov, the Socialist leader, made it clear that he expected his party to stay in power for at least a year to "stabilise" Bulgaria, which is undergoing its worst economic crisis since 1989.

That is unlikely to satisfy the opposition, which rallied 100,000 people in Sofia and tens of thousands more in cities nationwide to back its demand for early elections.

The Speaker, Blagovest Sendov —

who supports the Socialists in parliament — backed opposition demands for a general election, urging the Socialists to show "care for Bulgaria" by "holding negotiations with the opposition under the condition of early parliamentary elections".

Hundreds of cars flying blue opposition flags headed into Sofia from provincial towns for a rally yesterday on the seventh consecutive day of protests. "The atmosphere requires that the citizens' demand should be considered," said the President-elect, Petar Stoyanov, an opposition lawyer. "I am appealing to the ruling party and the opposition to sit at the table for talks. This was

now possible only if the Socialist Party goes to the talks having already —

decided to hold early parliamentary elections." President Zhelyev said he would ask the Socialists to form a new government only if they agreed to hold elections.

Ivan Kostov, the opposition leader, vowed yesterday to paralyse the political and economic life of the country. "We are preparing for a nationwide strike," he said. He was backed by trade union leaders and students from Sofia University.

As the students marched through the capital and protesters massed outside the cathedral, Mr Zhelyev gave a warning that the situation was "explosive", with the brutal police crackdown on Friday's protests providing a "detonator". Russia — traditionally Bulgaria's closest ally —

expressed alarm, saying its status as an "island of stability" in the Balkans was at risk. "Bulgaria is bleeding after the night of the long clubs," said *Trud* newspaper. The Holy Synod ordered Masses to be said for peace throughout the country of seven million Orthodox Christians.

The protests are partly inspired by the anti-Milosevic demonstrations in Serbia. But whereas the Serbian rallies have been largely peaceful, protests here quickly turned violent. There is widespread disillusionment with the Socialists, who as orthodox communists ruled Bulgaria for four decades with authoritarian ruthlessness and servility to Moscow, and despair over Bulgaria's descent into economic chaos since the advent of

democracy six years ago. On Friday, 50,000 demonstrators stormed the parliament building, smashing furniture and starting fires. Riot police, swinging clubs and firing blanks, forced their way into the building to rescue beleaguered MPs. The protesters resisted, shouting "Murderers, murderers". Nearly 200 demonstrators and ten policemen were injured in clashes.

Doctors at the hospital where injured protesters were taken said many had been clubbed on the head. "The wards look like a mini-Sarajevo," a doctor said. The wounded included Filip Dimitrov, a former Prime Minister. The parliament square was still being cleared of broken glass and debris.

THIS WEEK
IN EUROPE

be like Germany and forget nationalism. There's no splitting the difference for you to decide."

Tony Blair's spin-doctors will tell you optimistic stories of how well things will go between Labour and Herr Kohl after the election: how skilfully Tony will handle the Chancellor, how warmly the two men got along when they talked for so long in Bonn last summer. But Herr Kohl has been making clear in private that he was not impressed by the young pretender of British politics at that meeting, and that anyway he never fell for the idea that a Labour government will transform Britain's relations with its EU partners.

Anglo-German diplomacy is headed for the deep freeze. Last week's *four nation* opinion poll on Europe hinted that, unlike us, the Germans are learning to love the euro: what has been a 2-1 majority opposed to losing the mark has shrunk to a bare 44-43 margin against.

They caught one of the last refugee trains. Thomas watched old and dying people being thrown out of the train as Russian and Polish soldiers *pillaged* anything from wedding rings to shoes: the Kielingers had been barefoot in a bombed and starving Berlin. Thomas still has the poems scribbled by his father to distract his children when they woke in the night crying from hunger.

Thomas eventually became a successful journalist and a sympathetic observer of the fractious relations between Germany and Britain: he taught for several years in Wales and met his first wife in Cardiff. He has just published a jolly but rose-tinted study of how Germans and Britons see each other. Perhaps because the book was sponsored by the German and British Governments, it makes no mention of his turbulent pre-school life, nor any of his current pessimism about political relations between Britain and Germany.

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Labour's European instincts are trapped in an innocent illusion that the gap between British and German long-term aims in the European Union can easily be bridged. A Labour prime minister who wanted a better dialogue with Germany would do better to go to Bonn and suggest that we acknowledge and live with our differences. As a wise British policy-maker reflected: "One among our many mistakes in Europe has been to assume that because the Germans aren't Latins, they're like us. They're not."

* *Crossroads and Roundabouts: Junctions in German-British relations*, Bouvier Verlag, Bonn.

GEORGE BROCK

Time to admit an Anglo is not a Saxon

The most terribly vivid of Thomas Kielinger's earliest memories is the day in 1945 when he and his mother fled their house in Danzig as Russian troops drove the retreating Germans out of town. Aged four, Thomas clung to his mother's skirt and screamed in fear.

"The road was torn up. We found ourselves standing in front of a monstrous tangle of wrecked buildings backed by purple-red hellfire," he remembers. Two days earlier, Russian soldiers had burst into the cellar where the Kielingers family had been hiding, seized his father and two older sisters and raped his younger sister on a coal heap in front of the family.

Thomas's father was German and his mother Polish. Parents and children miraculously met up again in the following months, but could see more trouble looming as Poles renamed the city Gdansk and began expelling Germans.

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GEORGE BROCK

US envoy fears growing risk of Cyprus conflict

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA
AND JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

CAREY CAVANAUGH, the American envoy, arrived in Cyprus last night and issued a warning that the prospects for conflict in the eastern Mediterranean were rising and the divided island's future could be at a "pivotal point".

The State Department official criticised the Nicosia Government's decision to buy Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles, but insisted nothing could justify Turkish military action. "We may be at a pivotal point regarding the future of Cyprus. The political atmosphere has worsened. Prospects for conflict are rising."

In Athens, Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, summoned his ministers of defence and foreign affairs for a meeting today to moderate his country's diplomatic response to Turkey.

Tension mounted on the island as President Clerides insisted that there was no question of Nicosia rescinding

its missile deal with Russia. General Ismail Hakkı Karayav, Turkey's military chief of staff, is due in Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus today for two days of talks with Turkish Cypriot leaders.

"Our acquisition of the missiles is not negotiable," Mr Clerides said hours before Mr Cavanaugh arrived. After separate talks with Mr Clerides and Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Cavanaugh flies to Greece tonight and then on to Turkey.

Mr Simitis, who has taken a low-key approach, is facing a potential revolt from Socialist bank-benchers who are demanding more aggressive support for the Cypriot decision to buy the missiles.

Turkish newspapers reported at the weekend that Ankara was considering blocking the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles to prevent the Russian missiles reaching Cyprus.

Leading article, page 19

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Divided Serbia 'close to economic collapse'

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SERBIA, racked by anti-government protests, is on the verge of economic collapse, the top civilian international official for Bosnia-Herzegovina said yesterday in Sarajevo.

"I think Serbia is on the verge, the brink, of economic disaster," Carl Bildt, the High Representative of the major powers, told a

press conference. "We've seen the dinar losing roughly a third of its value on the black markets — those are the real markets — over the last week. If we look at the fundamental figures, that is likely to be only the beginning."

As Mr Bildt made his comments, anti-government demonstrators were engaged in their eighth week of protests on the streets of Belgrade, the

Serbian capital. He said the collapse of the Serbian economy would have adverse effects on Republica Srpska, the Serb-controlled Bosnian entity, because it continues to use the Serbian dinar.

"It's very important to protect Republica Srpska from the negative financial influence of the collapse of Serbia," he said.

He urged Bosnian Serbs to

agree to economic reforms so that they adopted a single Bosnian currency with their former Muslim and Croat enemies.

Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek Foreign Minister, spoke out yesterday, during an unofficial visit to Belgrade, in support of the thousands of demonstrators who have protested about the annulment of last year's elections.



Hallier made career of courting controversy

French mourn an enfant terrible

FROM BEN MACTINTYRE
IN PARIS

JEAN-EDERN HALLIER, France's most flamboyant polemicist and literary provocateur, died yesterday after a bicycle accident in the Normandy resort of Deauville.

M Hallier, 60, suffered a cerebral haemorrhage after falling during an early morning ride, police said.

A novelist, editor, politician and professional irritant for three decades, M Hallier made a career out of courting controversy. Many of his stunts resulted in libel suits; at least one ended with M Hallier, who was partially blind, challenging his opponents to a duel.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known, police said, but they denied rumours that it might have been a terrorist attack. Right-wing terrorists have previously blown up several trains in Italy.

Trade union leaders said

that several times in the past drivers had reported to the authorities inadequate warning of the curve where the accident happened, but that no action had been taken to improve safety.

A member of the crew told

Italian state radio that "the

train was going very fast and

all of a sudden we found

ourselves lying sideways

it was terrible."

Scores of firemen and res-

cue workers rushed to the

scene to try to free those stuck

inside. The *Pendolino* makes

the Milan to Rome trip in four

hours, half the time taken by

normal express trains.

Once a close friend of

François Mitterrand, he later

fell out with the Socialist

leader and was the first to

reveal the existence of the

former President's mistress

and his illegitimate daughter,

Mazarine. He claimed that

Mitterrand plotted to kill him

as a result of the disclosure.

M Hallier's political views

ranged from far-left to far-

right. As the host of his own

literary television talk-show,

he brought a refreshing note

of savagery to the polite world

of French book reviewing.

On the island of Cyprus, the

pro-Syrian leader, Mr Tunc

Tung, has come in for

international criticism. This

new body, like Mr Tung, has

been picked by Peking.

The administration that Mr

Tung is to head — the Provi-

vincial Legislative Council,

which will take over from the

elected Legislative Council on

July 1 — has come in for

international criticism. This

new body, like Mr Tung, has

been picked by Peking.

Chris Patten, the Governor,

maintains that the appointed

legislature is illegitimate. Mr

Tung insists it is legal, and

criticises the elected chamber for being too political.

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really understand the real

situation." She did not specify

when he would make the trip,

but said it might be before the

transfer of sovereignty.

The administration that Mr

Tung is to head — the Provi-

vincial Legislative Council,

which will take over from the

Bhutto uses Major visit to attack rival

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR
IN ISLAMABAD

JOHN MAJOR was drawn into the turmoil of Pakistani politics last night as Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, seized the opportunity of his visit to launch an outspoken attack on President Leghari, who dismissed her two months ago.

Mr Major flew into Islamabad from Bangladesh on the final stage of his three-country tour determined to be even-handed between the contenders in the February 3 elections. But Miss Bhutto turned on the charm as she arrived for a deliberately low-key meeting at the imposing and elegant residence of Sir Christopher Mac-

Rae, the British High Commissioner. A restricted photocall was staged but, as he meets with all the candidates, Mr Major eschewed a press conference to show his neutrality.

Miss Bhutto, stylishly dressed in *salwar kameez* (tunic and trousers), Miss Bhutto was welcomed into the residence by Sir Christopher and Mr Major came down the stairs to greet her. Quickly noting that a handful of British journalists had been allowed in to witness the encounter, she declared: "I must say Prime Minister, you have all the luck. When I saw you last October, I thought, you would be facing a general election before I would." A smiling Mr Major responded: "Mine is not too far away." Their private talks went on

for 40 minutes and Mr Major was reported to have been in "listening mode". He told her that Britain, along with America, Germany, Canada and The Netherlands, would send observers to monitor the poll.

As she left and faced reporters outside, Miss Bhutto threw restraint aside. Although it is virtually certain that her Pakistan People's Party will contest the elections, she raised again the possibility that there might be a large-scale arrest of her candidates on the eve of the poll "which is why we are keeping our options open".

For the benefit of her wider than usual media audience, she voiced her contempt for President Leghari who sacked her Government on November 5 for alleged corruption and

financial irregularities, and his decision last week to set up a new Council for Defence and National Security with the heads of the armed services filling four of its ten seats, reviving accusations that he wants to return power to the military. Miss Bhutto backed the army and blamed the President for putting it into a sticky situation. With that she was away and back to her campaign.

Today Mr Major will meet the President, as well as Mian Nawaz Sharif, Miss Bhutto's rival and favourite to win. Mr Major is also likely to see Imran Khan, the former Pakistan Test captain and leader of the Justice Movement, tonight. Mr Major, while not taking sides, is telling all of them that there should

be a restoration of democratic government as soon as possible. The election should be free and fair with nobody excluded. He is, however, expected to ask some searching questions of President Leghari about the security council: he wants to know its exact role both before and after the election.

Mr Leghari defended his plans here yesterday. He said that a newly elected government could do away with the council if it felt it unnecessary.

□ Court backing: The Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the President can dismiss elected lawmakers, a verdict that could hurt Miss Bhutto's bid to have her Government returned to power. (AP)

Yeltsin still battling pneumonia

Moscow: The Kremlin said yesterday that President Yeltsin had resumed some work in hospital, but there was still no sign that he was overcoming pneumonia (Richard Beeson writes). "To a significant degree, his activity has increased, and B.N. Yeltsin has begun to work on documents," said a Kremlin medical bulletin, which added that his temperature, blood pressure and pulse were normal.

Dr Sergei Mironov, the Kremlin physician, said the President could be discharged in days, but his inflammation of the lungs would take about three weeks to cure.

Shuttle starts Mir mission

Cape Canaveral: The *Atlantis* space shuttle blasted off yesterday for the Mir Russian space station to pick up John Blaha, an American astronaut. The six-person shuttle crew includes Jerry Linenger, who will stay on Mir for 4½ months, after tomorrow's scheduled docking. At the moment of the *Atlantis* launch, Mir was passing near the Galapagos Islands, some 2,400 miles away. (AP)

New payments to former sex slaves

Tokyo: Seven South Korean women who were used as sex slaves by the Japanese Army during Second World War have each been paid five million yen (£23,000). Most of the women have refused to accept any of the money, which comes from a private fund and not directly from the Government. Up to 200,000 Koreans and Asians were used as sex slaves. (Reuters)

Poor of Miami keep windfall

Miami: Four days after a Brinks armoured van carrying \$3.7 million (£22 million) crashed and dropped cash onto the streets of Miami's poorest suburb, an appeal to return the loot is having little success (David Adams writes). Of about \$500,000 pocketed by passers-by, only \$200 has been handed back. Most residents said they were hanging on to their "pennies from heaven".

Parties in brush on colour plan

Jakarta: The mayor of the Indonesian town of Solo in central Java has threatened to take political rivals to court if they do not repaint pavements and trees in the colour of the ruling Golkar party. The United Development Party recently painted the public objects white after the local government had earlier painted them yellow — the Golkar colour. (Reuters)

Performers hurt by Nigeria blast

Lagos: Four Nigerian street entertainers were injured, one seriously, when their performing monkey picked up an object, thought to be a hand grenade, from the gutter, a daily newspaper reported. One of the entertainers pulled the pin of the grenade after taking it from the monkey, which was also hurt in the explosion. (AFP)



Amid the grandeur of the Sistine Chapel, the Pope baptises Mauri Carla Teresa, from Mexico, to mark the feast of Christ's baptism yesterday. The pontiff, who baptised 19 newborn babies, said the sacrament was an "immense gift".

South Korean strike leaders reject offer of debate over law

FROM REUTER IN SEOUL

SOUTH Korean union leader Kwon Young Kil said yesterday that striking workers would not compromise even though the Government appeared to be offering a peaceful solution to a three-week-old industrial crisis.

A fresh clash between police and workers over a controversial new labour law showed that tempers were still frayed. At least 3,000 workers and students fought with riot police as they tried to march out of Myeongdong Cathedral, in central Seoul, where Mr Kwon and six other union leaders have sought sanctuary from prosecutors seeking their arrest. Police fired teargas at the protesters, to force them back, sending shoppers scurrying for safety.

Mr Kwon dismissed the offer as a propaganda ploy. The main union body, the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, has also brushed aside the offer.

Mr Kwon said his 500,000-member union would strike on Wednesday if the law had not been scrapped. That would coincide with a call by the federation, which has 1.2 million members, to down tools for two days, starting tomorrow, in what would be the biggest strike in the country's history.

Mr Kwon, speaking outside a makeshift tent pitched in the grounds of the Gothic cathedral, said the strikers' resolve was undiminished and public support was growing.

"We will not accept the law... The public and the opposition parties will also not accept the law," said Mr Kwon, the president of the outlawed Korean Confederation of Trade Unions. "If the law comes into effect, it will destroy 12 million

workers' lives and the public life," he said.

Lee Hong Koo, the head of South Korea's ruling party, the Democratic Liberal Party, in an apparent attempt to avoid more confrontation, challenged union leaders on Saturday to a televised debate on the law, which has provoked growing international criticism.

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The latest clash followed a rally by more than 2,000 workers in the cathedral grounds to protest against the new law, which allows firms to lay off workers and hire temporary staff to break strikes, shattering a job-for-life tradition.

French relish Disney version of Hugo's historic hunchback

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

LONG before Walt Disney's cartoon version of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* reached French cinema screens, critics here were predicting it would be historically inaccurate, simplistic and a travesty of the novel by Victor Hugo, the great 19th-century writer.

They were right on all counts, but instead of flopping, the film has proved a smash hit in France, shooting to number two at the French box office and prompting a resurgence of interest in the life and works of Hugo.

For some, the film's success is a further sign of the unstoppable march of Mickey Mouse, but for others it is proof of the vitality of French culture, for many intellectual commentators have hailed the cartoon as a moral parable about illegal immigration.

The theme of discrimination is examined throughout the entire film, "Le Monde" declared. The daily *Liberation* agreed, insisting that "The Hunchback of Notre Dame tells nothing less than the tale of the illegal immigrants of Saint Bernard" — a reference to the row last summer when more than 200 African immigrants occupied the church of Saint Bernard in Paris before being forcibly evicted by riot police. In the Disney film, the

gypsy girl Esmeralda seeks refuge in Notre Dame and is advised by one of her allies to "demand the right of asylum".

By intellectualising the film, critics have been able to overlook the gulf that separates the Hugo and Disney versions: in the original, Quasimodo is a hideous monster who dies in the end, along with Esmeralda, while in the politically-correct Disney cartoon, the hunchback is cuddly and goes on to live, we assume, a fulfilling life.

The cartoon depiction of the cathedral has been widely praised for its architectural



Disney's happy Quasimodo is befriended by Esmeralda

Dog disease threatens Serengeti lions

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LIONS in one of Africa's biggest game reserves are in danger of being virtually wiped out by a disease spread by dogs, conservationists said today.

Canine distemper has killed more than 1,000 lions in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park — a third of the population — since 1994. If nothing is done, it is feared another outbreak will cause havoc with the next generation of cubs. The disease

is common in dogs but often fatal to lions, killing at least half of those infected. Researchers have discovered that canine distemper is being passed to lions, from dogs owned by the Masai and other local people, via hyenas and jackals.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals is funding an intensive three-year programme to vaccinate more than 20,000 dogs in the region against distemper and rabies. Clinics will also be

held to develop methods of birth control in the dog population.

Dr Sarah Cleaveland, a research fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a consultant for the society, said: "The lions are becoming increasingly vulnerable to another outbreak of distemper, with the risks increasing all the time as the dog population rises. We are in a race against time if we are to save the next generation."

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At last, something to celebrate

1997 January

New Year
New Job

With demand for graduates outstripping supply, university is the path to a good career. But should students choose arts or science, asks Anjana Ahuja

Deciding whether to go to university — and what to study there if you do — is one of the most momentous decisions a young person can make. The problem is assessing whether three years of grim student flats, Oxford shops, late-night cramming and insults from taxi drivers is worth it. Is your detailed knowledge of Proust, naval history or the second law of thermodynamics really going to set a prospective employer's pulse racing?

Some argue that young people benefit more from apprentice-style jobs or vocational training, earning a salary while learning something that will be of genuine use to a prospective employer. But on top of the cultural and social advantages, a university degree is likely to be your most potent weapon when it comes to finding a job.

Last week, an annual survey by the Association for Graduate Recruiters forecast that vacancies for graduates will grow by 11.5 per cent this year, and this will prompt employers to push up starting salaries.

The reason is that business is going global. To become world-class enterprises, they need to recruit the best people. At the very least, that means good-quality graduates. There has never been a better time, it seems, to pack your bags and head off to the ivory towers.

Once you have decided that university is for you, one of the first problems you will face is whether to study arts or sciences. So, if you are about to decide, which way should you go?

From a down-to-earth point of view, doing a science or engineering degree could be a shrewd move. The steady decline in gifted recruits to these fields has led to a shortfall in a number of professions, notably teaching. According to the simple rules of supply and demand, this imbalance ought soon to be reflected in the salaries offered.

For those committed to such disciplines, a science subject could also be a passport to a leading university, according to statistics released by Cambridge and Oxford Universities. Applicants for the natural sciences degree at Cambridge have a better than one-in-three chance of success — not bad odds if you fancy sharing your alma mater with arguably the greatest scientist in history, Sir Isaac Newton.

At Oxford University, one in two applicants for biological sciences courses secures a place — and the chances of gaining admission to read chemistry are better than 50:50. Physics offers a better than one-in-three chance, while earth sciences and engineering both offer a better than even chance of getting in.

These contrast favourably with Oxford and Cambridge degrees such as law, English and economics. But both medicine and veterinary medicine, which demand excellent science A levels, are still notoriously hard to break into.

To become world-class enterprises they need to recruit the best

Would-be doctors stand only a 14 per cent chance of securing a place. If you feel you can commit yourself for three years but are not sure what you want to do afterwards, do not despair. There is a growing acceptance of science subjects in unrelated areas — and therefore more scope for switching careers after university. Employers in the world of banking and finance have been particularly quick to recognise the value of technical degrees.

All the big accountancy firms, plus merchant and investment banks, are very keen to recruit science and engineering graduates, which is why they always target our institution," says John Simpson, director of the careers service at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. "A lot of the training, such as the high level of numeracy, is relevant to finance. And nearly all our graduates are highly computer literate."

Towers Perrin, an international finance company, recruits graduates each year to train as actuaries — mathematical whiz-kids who assess long-term risks and probabilities for the finance markets, especially the insurance and pensions industries. Its selection criteria are strict — at least an upper second honours degree in a scientific or numerate discipline, plus at least grade B in A-level mathematics.

"Graduates in these disciplines are extremely attractive right across the finance industry," says Heather Smith, from Towers Perrin in London. "Our recruits need to be extremely good because the training is tough. The actuarial exams are regarded by many as harder than accountancy exams and take an average of seven years to complete, although our average is about four years."

"Actuaries are well-regarded and highly respected in the industry. It may be difficult to make it but once they do, the world is their oyster with salaries to match."

Andersen Consulting in London is a well-known management consultancy company which appreciates science and engineering graduates. Out of its annual intake of 300 graduates, 55 per cent come from these disciplines.

"Science is very good at training people to think in a certain way," explains Sam Clark, graduate recruitment manager at Andersen Consulting. "They are taught to be logical, and to analyse problems. They are also computer literate. All these skills are very useful to us because our clients have a wide range of problems."

She adds: "We do particularly well with the engineering disciplines, because there is usually a commercial element to the training. Engineers have a good blend of scientific and business skills, which is highly valued."

When childhood dreams turn to adult careers

ANDREW MOTION: Poet

Up until the age of 12 I wanted to open the batwing for England. And when that subsided I spent the next four years, bizarrely enough, wanting to be a priest. It was not through any particular religious fervour, but rather because it sounded like a nice life — I wanted to live in the country and write and do a bit of fishing. I wanted to be George Herbert. At 16 this strange ambition disappeared, and I realised I could write without being a priest.

I had taken no interest in school work until I was 15 or 16, and then, early in my A-level course, I came across the Hardy poem *The Self-*

Unseeing. It was so simple and yet so fascinating, it made the hairs on my neck stand on end and did all the things poetry should do. I set about writing poems in the school magazine, and winning poetry prizes; published my first work outside school at 18, and my first book at 23.

Poetry is something that chooses you, you do not choose it. I was at school in the early years of careers advice and when asked, at 15, what I wanted to be I said: "A poet." It's a bit embarrassing to recall this 30 years later, but that's how it was.

I worked as a teacher after university and then as a publisher in London in the



Motion: drawn to poetry

1980s, but there was never any question of my being derailed. Poetry is at the centre of my existence, that may sound pretentious, but it is all I ever considered doing.

JAMES DYSON: Inventor

I was the victim of an education system that button-holes children at the earliest possible age and restricts their potential to a single direction for ever. I was keen on practical things but at that time there was no CDT (craft, design and technology), and woodwork was perceived as a thing done by "thickies" in a shed.

The careers adviser told me to be an estate agent because I liked being outdoors, and when I told my head I was going to art school, he said: "Jolly good, you'll be better off without a degree round your neck."

I got into the RCA to study

furniture and I became interested in product design. I wanted to be involved in the whole of the product, to create the technology as well as the look.

Struggling against the notion that artists are clothheads with no idea of technology, I taught myself engineering and hydrodynamics, designing a plastic assault craft called the Sea-Truck. It was my graduation piece and made millions in production. I then invented the Ballbarrow, which took a 50 per cent share of the wheelbarrow market in three years, and went on to develop the bagless vacuum cleaner, and dominate that market as

Dyson: inspired inventor

well. My company is the fast-growing manufacturing business in Britain — an inspiration I hope, to thickies in sheds everywhere. Interview by Giles Coren

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The prospect of switching career may seem daunting, but a change can be as good as a rest

For most people, January means a reluctant return to work after the festive season rather than a time for making fundamental changes. Yet it was almost exactly a year ago that I chose to change careers. I was teaching politics at Christ Church, Oxford, and had been a lecturer at the university for almost six years. I now write for *The Times*.

I had several reasons for making the switch. Although I enjoyed the company of my students and was fond of the college, I felt frustrated in my work. There seemed little chance of advancing my career and little that I could do to increase my prospects.

I was increasingly irritated by the trends within my profession, where my interests in questions such as "who wins elections?" and "what becomes policy?" were regarded with curiosity by colleagues obsessed by arcane methodology. That the university seemed to be slipping into a swamp of political correctness, symbolised to me by the dubious decision to abolish its entrance examination, simply compounded the issue. The logical option was to get out.

Of course, there were financial factors as well. There are plenty of young lecturers working in Oxford for less than £15,000. Even the post of professor, normally only reached after 30 years of scholastic endeavour, comes in at barely more than £35,000. In an industry where a doctorate is becoming essential, this must represent the worst quid-per-qualification ratio in British employment.

There are compensations in terms of social prestige, of course. I found the words "Oxford don", a surprisingly effective chat-up line at parties. However, cash ultimately carries more clout than cachet. I had no objection to working for love and peanuts, provided Barclays Bank would accept these in lieu of the mortgage repayments. Unfortunately it would not.

By far the worst part of my career change was making the decision to do it. I discovered an almost inexhaustible set of reasons to delay, setting my self deadlines by which to make a firm choice, then finding excuses to "redefine" them. On far too many occasions I swore to myself that unless I was offered such-and-such a position, or unless the university refused to back the latest ill-advised reform, that was it. I would be off. I have heard similar stories of procrastination from almost everyone I know who has left academic life. In the end, it was the symbolism of my 30th birthday and the fear that further delay would deprive me of a decent run at a second career that settled it.

So why did changing careers seem so daunting? One reason was that university teaching is, to put it mildly, rather an unstructured form of employment. The scheduling of teaching was largely a matter for me. Large chunks of the year involved the university's vacation and hence research and writing. I had to "boss" to speak of, nor for that matter any staff at my disposal. My career switch would inevitably involve an encounter with what my wife dryly reminded me was the "real world" of pre-existing structures and formalised routine. Worse still, I would actually be responsible to someone. Although journalism had the virtue of being less rigid than I imagine accountancy, banking or the law to be, culture shock was still certain.

Added to this were the practical implications. As my children were settled in Oxford schools that we were very satisfied with, and I saw no good reason for their lives to be inconvenienced, I would have to join the throng who commuted daily to London — a journey made longer by the fact that Wapping lies east of the City, making prolonged exposure to the London Underground inevitable. Given the horror stories I had heard from many others about life as the hapless hostage of public transport, this was a unappealing prospect.

Six months on, though, the advantages of my career change have far outweighed the drawbacks. The weeks immediately after I agreed to join *The Times* were marked by a powerful wave of elation and liberation. Frustration has largely been displaced by a new sense of adventure. My new post has allowed me to think and write across much wider terrain than I ever did in Oxford.

True, there are some disadvantages. The physical surroundings have proved a contrast. Oxford is blessed with some beauty, a side of the city I have come to appreciate rather more for working elsewhere. When I was at Christ Church, my teaching rooms were in the base of Tom Tower, built by Christopher Wren, and my windows looked out on the magnificence of a quadrangle designed for Cardinal Wolsey. The News International plant is not quite in the same league, either for history or for architectural splendour.

Here I sit in a windowless, air-conditioned box, looking out at Mary Ann Sieghart. And then there is commuting — not the train from Oxford to London, which I find both relaxing and very conducive to work, but the Underground. At times it can take as long to get across London as travel the 60 or so miles to it.

Despite these distractions, though, I know I made the right choice last January. In retrospect, I should have had the courage of my convictions much earlier. If others recognise the symptoms of career angst identified here, then my advice would be to take similar risks. The frustration that you are selling yourself short has a corrosive power that goes well beyond the workplace. A change is not merely as good as a rest, it is considerably better.

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and if you are brave you may even decide to work with your friends

How to get on top of the job

Mariella Frostrup on how giving up office work does not always lead to domestic bliss

For the third day running I was still in my pyjamas at 7pm. My living room was littered with an explosion of debris that would not have looked out of place in a squat. It included overflowing ashtrays, empty coffee mugs, my dirty breakfast cereal bowl and an empty packet of Shreddies.

These were the last edible things in my larder and I had been eating them straight from the box since the milk ran out at noon. I would have to get dressed after all if I wanted a sandwich.

It was my third month of working from home.

My years of being office-bound, from which I had been desperate to escape, had begun to induce a sense of nostalgia. Remembering the days of sharing the cappuccino run and exchanging gossip nearly brought me to tears.

I remembered the thrill, after a day at work, of coming home to a tidy living room and settling in for a night glued to the television.

Now, I could not find my television. It was buried under a mass of newspapers, bills, letters and books; all of which I had been intending to file for weeks. The answer machine was blinking 20 unread messages and only two minutes of tape left. If I had called the police I would have had no trouble convincing them that my apartment had been ransacked. The time had come for serious action.

The problem was, what were the alternatives? Should I phone around my friends to see if anyone had a spare desk in their office? If by a stroke of luck they did it was bound to be open plan in which case, would I get anything done? Should I rent an office of my own, somewhere? Rents starting at £250 a week soon put me off that idea.

I was at a loss until mess came through in early June of last year from my friend and neighbour Emma Freud. "Hello it's Emma, we've had a brilliant idea and I need to talk to you about it." A brilliant idea, what could it be? I called back immediately. "Richard [Curtis — her partner] and I have found a wonderful office space just off Portobello Road. We think it would be great to get a bunch of freelance people together who are sick of working from home and make a co-operative."

The woman is psychic, I thought, as I hurried to have a look. It was perfect. A spacious, light main room leading to many little box rooms made infinitely more habitable by the huge sash windows they boasted. If could not have been better. It was cheap, close to home

'My living room was littered with an explosion of debris'

of debris'

and somebody else was going to organise it.

Emma had already decided on the decor — wooden floorboards and white walls. It was budget rather than style that dictated her choice, but the result was perfect. We would supply our own furniture; she and Richard the phone system.

Two months later a motley crew of friends and acquaintances moved into what was now grandly named "Portobello Studios".

Emma ransacked Ikea and returned triumphant with the biggest desk we had ever seen. My room was the first to be furnished because I could not wait to move the accumulated muck from home.

Ruby Wax insisted that all she wanted was a futon, and a little cloud over her head. Eventually, having strained her back trying to type lying down, she gave in and bought a desk.

Sally Brampton, the writer, was the only person working. While we lounged around in what had become the living room thanks to a generous donation of two sofas, she could be heard clacking away on her computer.

Slowly things settled down and giddy excitement turned to a niggling worry about the ratio of work to socialising. Friday afternoons were devoted to sharing our tales of woe from the preceding week. An enormous bar of chocolate, bought with petty cash, was awarded to whoever had suffered most.

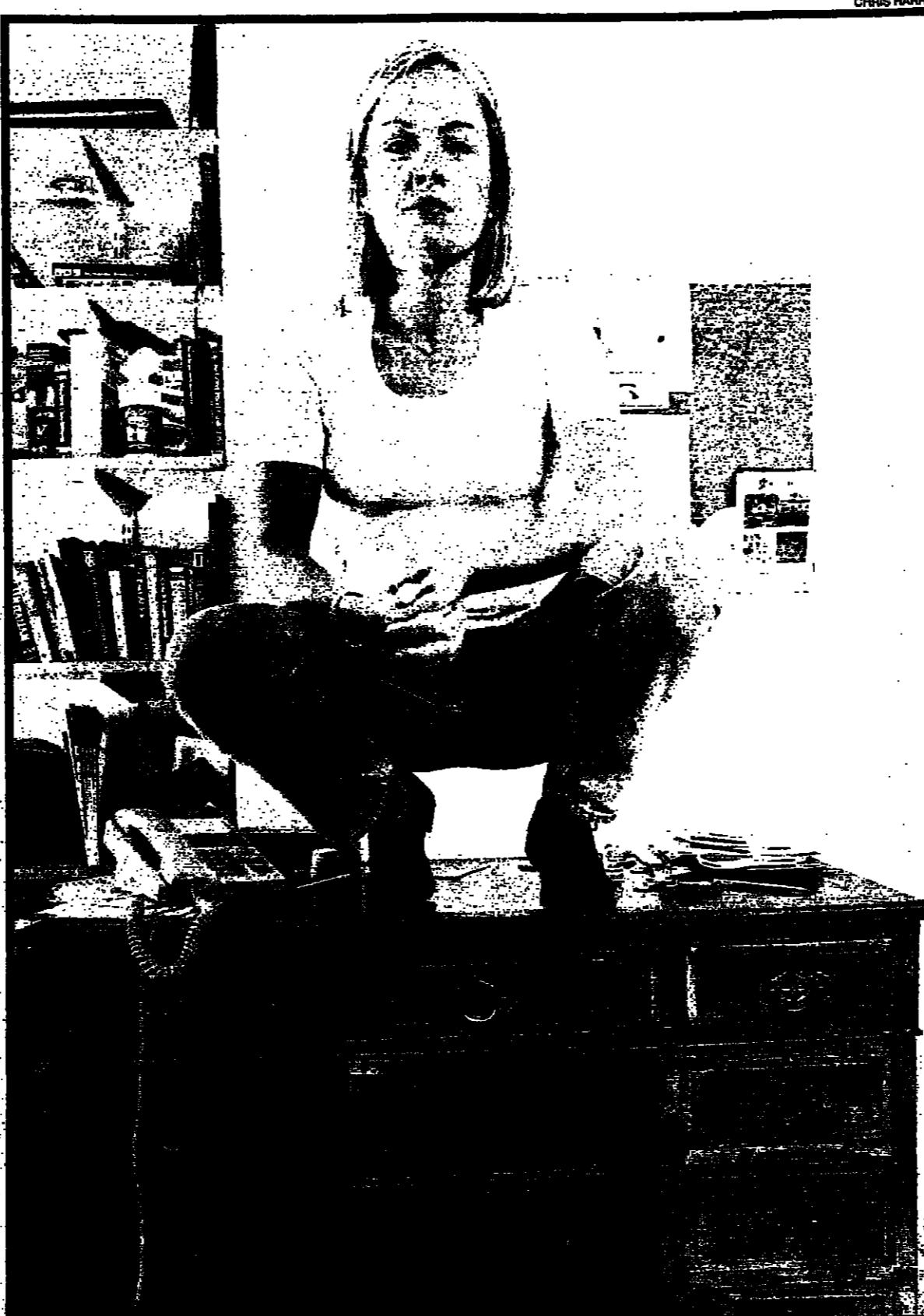
When Peter Godwin, another of our strong, won the *Esquire* Non-Fiction Award for *Mukiva*, Helen Fielding won the chocolate to help her to get over the disappointment.

The fact that her book *Bridget Jones' Diary* was fiction and not eligible did not seem to matter.

Four months later the heady days of the chocolate award and the communal lottery ticket are behind us. The office has become a refuge, a place where the phone is mainly for calls out and we have the peace to get on with our work.

I have a reason to get dressed in the morning and discipline has returned to my formerly chaotic life. It feels like having a proper job but with all the freedom that self-employment brings.

My office now resembles my old living room, with overflowing ashtrays and old coffee cups but there's home to escape to after work. Most importantly, with my piles of paperwork now cluttering my office, I have been able to find my television again. Life would be perfect if I could find something worth watching.



After working from home, Mariella Frostrup has decided that an office environment promotes self-discipline

From the law to the pulpit

Beverley Kemp meets a solicitor who has decided to become a priest

Even as he started his articles with a firm of solicitors in Gravesend, Kent, William Agley was considering becoming a priest. "I realised that the thoughts would never go away until I'd given it a go," he says. "There was nothing

to lose because I already had a profession I could return to if I discovered the priesthood wasn't for me."

Four and a half years ago, after qualifying as a lawyer, he entered a seminary in Guildford, Surrey. Now aged 28, he becomes a deacon on June 28 and will be ordained in 1998.

"When I was at school, I thought about the priesthood, but it's generally recommended that you do something else first," he says. "Law had always been a subject I was interested in. Obviously there are a lot of things I miss now I am in the seminary. I'd become quite close to some of my colleagues in the firm, and I miss that feeling of camaraderie and the general hubbub of criminal law. If I'm being honest, I also miss the income. My salary as a newly qualified lawyer was £18,000. My grant now is £8,500."

"But accommodation and food are free, and students usually work throughout the holidays... Everyone in the seminary is in the same boat, so there's no pressure to live above your means. We all understand that we can't afford to go out for expensive meals twice a week."

"One of the most difficult aspects for me has been celibacy. I'd be lying if I said it was always going to be easy. Priests are human beings, after all. I've had to ask myself the question: 'Can I freely choose this?' I have never had a long-term relationship and I do believe in celibacy."

"In an exclusive partnership between two people, your love is directed to another person. But in celibacy, I take comfort from the fact that I

am able to offer the love that I might have given to a partner more widely and also receive it from the people I will be serving in my parish."

"Getting married and having a family were certainly things I often thought about before. The reality that I will never have my own family has been particularly hard to deal with. Fortunately, I have a niece and a nephew whom I love very much. There are still times when I feel broody, but deep inside I know that if I were engaged in bringing up a family, or in a sexual relationship, I would never be able to give all of myself."

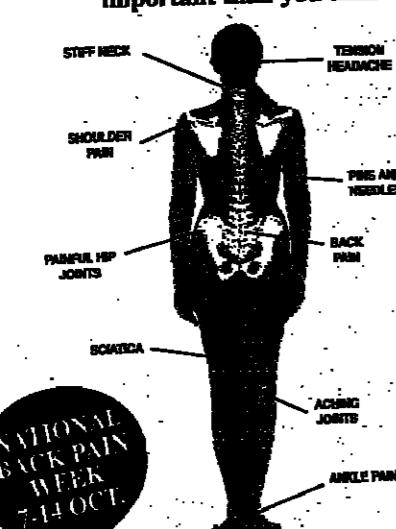
"I derive a lot of emotional support from intimate, non-sexual relationships with friends. Many of those friendships have deepened since I entered the seminary. People close to me have asked me several soul-searching questions, and I've been forced to reveal a lot of personal information about myself. My friends have been totally supportive."

"At first, my parents were very upset about my decision. My father felt that I was throwing away a good job and a stable future. My mother had the usual maternal concerns such as 'Who's going to look after you when you're old?' But they seem much happier about the idea these days. Only recently, my mother told me that she sees now that I am much happier."

"I have been called by God to follow a way of life which I believe is the right path for me, and I consider that a very powerful gift. Not many people have the opportunity to do what makes them truly happy in life."

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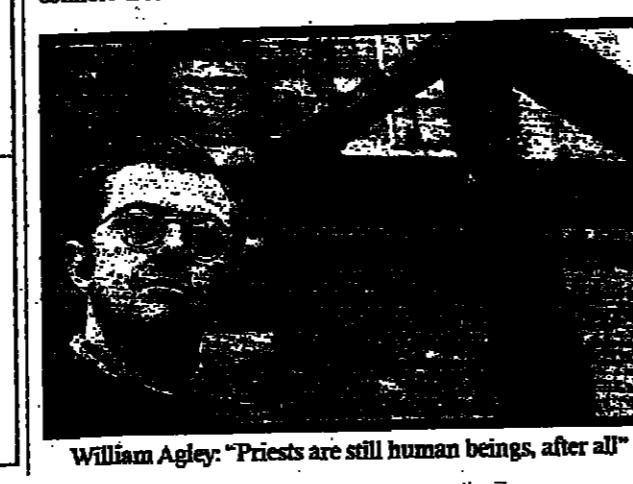
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William Agley: "Priests are still human beings, after all."

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Tomorrow

NEW YEAR

WORKING FROM HOME the ideal solution — or the route to loneliness?



Wednesday

NEW YEAR

CAREER BREAKS and how to take them

Thursday

NEW YEAR

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on work and health — and don't miss our definitive APPOINTMENTS SECTION with a nationwide selection of jobs from graduate level to executive positions

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The Private Anne Frank



Otto Frank: Anne's father

FROM June 12, 1942, to August 1, 1944, when, aged 15, she was arrested by the Nazis, Anne Frank kept an intimate diary. It was a record of her life in hiding, closeted in a secret annexe at 263 Prinsengracht, Amsterdam, with her parents, sister Margot, and four others, Mr and Mrs van Daan, their son, Peter and, later, a dentist, Mr Dussel. A child when she entered the annexe, by the time she was taken to her death in Belsen, Anne had become a young woman with a burning ambition to write. After the war Otto Frank decided to honour his daughter's wish and publish her diaries. In 1947, it was not usual for a young girl to write about sex, and he omitted passages dealing with this. Out of respect for the dead, he also left out unflattering descriptions of other inhabitants of the annexe. These passages, now restored in a definitive edition of the diaries, are printed in heavy type.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1942
Peter van Daan arrived at 9.30
in the morning. Peter's going
on 16, a shy, awkward boy
whose company won't amount
to much. Mr. and Mrs. van
Daan came half an hour later.
Much to our amusement, Mrs.
van Daan was carrying a
hatbox with a large chamber

Peter van Daan's room. "When I have gone to Peter's room during the day, I've always thought it was nice and cosy," wrote Anne. But she never dared to stay too long.

pot inside. "I just don't feel at home without my chamber pot," she exclaimed, and it was the first item to find a permanent place under the divan. Instead of a chamber pot, Mr van D. was lugging a collapsible tea table under his arm.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1942. I don't think Peter's got any nicer. He's an obnoxious bore who lies around on his bed all day, only rousing himself

do a little carpentry work
before returning to his nap.
What a twit!

had a terrible argument. I've never seen anything like it, since Mother and Father wouldn't dream of shouting at each other like that. The argument was based on something so trivial it didn't seem worth wasting a single word on it. Oh well, to each his own.

Of course, it's very difficult for Peter, who gets caught in the middle, but no one takes Peter seriously any more, since he's hypersensitive and lazy. Yesterday he was beside himself with worry because his tongue was blue instead of pink.

This rare phenomenon disappeared as quickly as it came. Today he's walking around with a thick scarf on because he's got a stiff neck. His Highness has been complaining of lumbago, too. Aches and pains in his heart, kidneys and lungs are also par for the course. He's an absolute hypochondriac (that's the right word, isn't it?).

when I have gone to Peter's room during the day, I've always thought it was nice and cosy. But Peter's too polite to show someone the door when they're bothering him, so I've never dared to stay long. I've always been afraid he'd think I was a pest. I've been looking for an excuse to linger in his room and get him talking without his noticing, and yesterday I got my chance. Peter, you see, is currently going through a crossword-puzzle craze, and he doesn't do anything else all day. I was helping him, and we soon ended up sitting across from each other at his table, Peter

on the chair and me on the divan.

It gave me a wonderful feeling when I looked into his dark blue eyes and saw how bashful my unexpected visit had made him. I could read his innermost thoughts, and in his face I saw a look of helplessness and uncertainty

being the way you are. You talk so much about the minds of children and adolescents, but you don't know the first thing about them! I long for more than Father's affection, more than his hugs and kisses. Isn't it awful of me to be so preoccupied with myself? Shouldn't I, who want to be good and kind, forgive them first? I forgive Mother too, but every time she makes a sarcastic remark or laughs at me, it's all I can do to

control myself.
I know I'm far from being
what I should: will I ever be?

MONDAY,
JANUARY 24, 1944
Before I came here, whenever
anyone at home or at school

alked about sex, they were either secretive or disgusted. Any words having to do with sex were spoken in a low whisper, and those who weren't in the know were often laughed at.

That struck me as odd, and I often wondered why people were so mysterious or obnoxious when they talked about this subject. But because I couldn't change things, I said as little as possible or asked my girlfriends for information.

Peter van Daan wasn't ever as obnoxious about this subject as the boys at school. Or maybe just once or twice, in the beginning, though he wasn't trying to get me to talk. Mrs van Daan once told us she'd never discussed these matters with Peter, and as far as she knew, neither had her

Apparently she didn't even know how much Peter knew or where he got his information.

Yesterday, when Margot, Peter and I were peeling potatoes, the conversation somehow turned to Boche. We're still not sure whether

"We're still not sure whether Boche is a boy or a girl, are we?" I asked.

"I was horsing around with the cat one day, and I could definitely see it was a 'he'."

That afternoon I heard Peter go downstairs. I mustered the courage to walk through the silent house by myself and reached the warehouse. Boche was on the packing table, playing with Peter, who was getting ready to put him on the

"Hello, do you want to have a look?" Without any preliminaries, he picked up the cat, turned him over on his back, firmly held his head and paws and began the lesson. "This is the male sexual organ, these

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ANNE FRANK STICHTING



Peter van Daan, left, and Anne Frank, right. "It gave me a wonderful feeling when I looked into his dark blue eyes. I could read his innermost thoughts and in his face I saw a look of helplessness and uncertainty as to how to behave."

are a few stray hairs, and that's his backside."

"The car flipped over and stood up on his little white feet. If any other boy had pointed out the "male sexual organ" to me, I would never have given him a second glance. But Peter went on talking in a normal voice about what is otherwise a very awkward subject. Nor did he have any ulterior motives. By the time he'd finished, I felt so much at ease that I started acting normally too. We played with Boche, had a good time, chatted a bit and finally sauntered through the long warehouse to the door.

"Were you there when Mouschi was fixed?"

"Yes, of course. It doesn't take long. Naturally, they give the cat an anaesthetic."

"Do they take something out?"

"No, the vet just snips the tube. There's nothing to see on the outside."

"I had to get up my nerve to ask a question, since it wasn't as "normal" as I thought."

"Peter, the German word 'Geschlechts' means 'sexual organ', doesn't it? But then the male and female ones have different names."

"I know that."

"The female one is a vagina, that I know, but I don't know what it's called in males."

"Humm."

"Oh well," I said. "How are we supposed to know these words? Most of the time you just come across them by accident."

"Why wait? I'll ask my parents. They know more than I do and they've had more experience. We were already on the stairs, so nothing more was said."

Yes, it really did happen. I'd never have talked to a girl about this in such a normal tone of voice. I'm also certain that this isn't what Mother meant when she warned me about boys.

TOMORROW

● As Anne's feelings for Peter van Daan develop, she finds herself on the brink of her first love affair

● Poised between childhood and becoming a woman, Anne explores her feelings about the changes taking place in her body and her emotions. With an insight remarkable for her age, she investigates her sexual feelings and wonders what the future holds



THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 1944

I go upstairs this morning and I promised Mrs van D. to read her some of my stories. I began with *Eve's Dress*, which she liked a lot, and then I read a few passages from *The Secret Annex*, which had her in stitches. Peter also listened for a while (just the last part) and asked if I'd come to his room tomorrow. I read more to him and I made him a chocolate right there and then, so I got my exercise-book and let him read that bit where Cady and Hans talk about God.

I can't really tell what kind of impression it made on him. He said something I don't quite remember, not about whether it was good, but about the idea behind it. I told him I just wanted him to see that I didn't write only amusing things. He nodded, and I left the room. We'll see if I hear anything more!

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 1944

Whenever I go upstairs, it's always so I can see "him". Now that I have something to look forward to, my life here has improved greatly.

At least the object of my friendship is always here, and I don't have to be afraid of rivals (except for Margot). Don't think I'm in love, because I'm not, but I do have the feeling that something beautiful is going to develop between Peter and me, a kind of friendship and a feeling of trust. I go and see him whenever I get the chance, and it's not the way it used to be, when he didn't know what to make of me. On the contrary, he's still talking away as I'm heading out of the door. Mother doesn't like me going upstairs. She always says I'm bothering Peter and that I should leave him alone. Honestly, can she credit me with some intuition? She al-

ways looks at me oddly when I go to Peter's room. When I come down again, she asks me where I've been. It's terrible, but I'm beginning to hate her!

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 23, 1944

We've been missing out on so much here, so very much, and for such a long time. I miss it just as much as you do. I'm not talking about external things, since we're well provided for in that sense. I mean the internal things. Like you, I long for freedom and fresh air, but I think we've been amply compensated for their loss.

This morning, when I was sitting in front of the window and taking a long, deep look outside at God and nature, I was happy, just plain happy. Peter, as long as people feel that kind of happiness within themselves, the joy of nature, health and much more besides, they'll always be able to recapture that happiness.

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 28, 1944

Peter didn't join me in the attic, but went up to the loft to do some carpentry work. At every rasp and bang, another chunk of my courage broke off and I was even more unhappy. In the distance a clock was tolling "Be pure in heart, tolling in mind!"

It's like a nightmare, one that goes on long after I'm awake. I see him nearly every hour of the day and yet I can't be with him. I can't let the others notice, and I have to pretend to be cheerful, though my heart is aching.

I'm sentimental, I know. I'm despondent and foolish. I know that too. Oh, help me!

● Taken from *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*, edited by Otto H. Frank and Mirjam Pressler, to be published by Viking on February 6, price £16. ©The Anne Frank Fonds, Basle, Switzerland 1991, English translation ©Doubleday 1993.

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ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART
Strange shapes emerge out of the everyday in Tony Cragg's Whitechapel show
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ DANCE
English National Ballet says farewell to the Festival Hall with *Coppélia*
FIRST NIGHT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ THEATRE
Caroline Blakiston recalls her Moscow nights in *Black Bread and Cucumber* at the Jermyn Street Theatre
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ OPERA
Rising British singer Andrew Shore sings the title role as Verdi's *Faust* comes to the Grand, Leeds
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

I am convinced that ITV's debate on the monarchy could be regarded as a landmark in television. In some ways it was a crude first draft, but groundbreaking programmes always are. It was a positive advance in our democratic conduct of politics. It showed once and for all that the British people long to have a direct voice of what governs them. It proved that they are hungry to have their opinions canvassed.

Television at last made a people increasingly disenchanted with politics — particularly young people — and drew them into democratic debate by employing the reach and directness of the electronic medium. It points the way to a vigorous development in the political ecology which is becoming too slick, too cynical, altogether too packaged and confined for the strong debate clearly needed by a mature electorate. The British bulldog of feisty former times wants to burst from its leash, and on ITV it uttered a warning and a heartening growl.

Let the people speak, hecklers and all

There has inevitably, as with all things new, been huge hostility towards the programme. This has largely concentrated on complaints by the panelists that they were not given enough time to develop their points. And also to the atmosphere in Birmingham before 3,000 British subjects resembled a bear garden.

I'm sure I would have sympathised had I been panelist, but as a viewer I take a different view.

First, as to the boos and hisses, the barracking and cheering — frankly, I thought this brought in a healthy smack of the old hustings. The microphone has made meetings open to the tyranny of the speaker. In Wigton, where I was born, at political meetings in the 1940s and 1950s, the spirit of the hustings and heckling were part of the fun and part of the game. Today's political meetings

are anaemically reverential. Of course heckling can get out of hand, as it did when the militants wrecked Labour Party meetings in the early 1980s. But its utter elimination is almost as bad as its domination. On ITV's monarchy debate I thought that the balance was about right. And compared with some sessions of Parliamentary Question Time, it was unexceptional.

And although the panelists did not have as much time as they would have liked they were, after all, heard. Mary Ann Sieghart, for instance, wrote in this paper that she felt short-changed, but I was impressed by her. She made her points with clarity, coherence and urgency. F. Forsyth had more airtime than he would ever have been allowed on *Newsnight*. Terry Waite grumbled and then made an excellent point, as did others. Even

the more embattled contributors — Anthony Holden, Andrew Neil and Peter Hitchens, for example — got in good, hard points succinctly. The fact is that there are many different ways to mount a discussion. It is absurd to rule out a programme whose aim was clearly to enlist the active participation of more than two million British people in less than two hours on a subject clearly important to them. The monarchy is debated at length in newspapers and magazines — and many of the ITV panelists have good access there. It is debated in other ways on radio and television — and again our panelists are often the dramatic personae on such programmes. This programme reached out and provoked the biggest response ever to any broadcast question.

The panelists surely knew that their time would be limited — and as I said, the best made good use of it. More importantly, I hope that they understood that on this programme they were not hired to speak to a deferential audience, but to take their place among

many other voices. It was perfectly right for the ITV programme that the man who had volunteered for the First World War by lying about his age should have had his say. It was right that the woman who stood up and hurled her anger at Claire Rayner should be heard; that the young Scot should show off his radical views. The whole plot and point was that these were the voices of the people, and among these voices the panel were not the elders or the senators, but were of the people. This can be looked at as something periodical.

The statistician over on *Newsnight* to pooh-pooh the results as not being scientific — even though they matched MORI and other polling quite uncannily. It was a pity that he did not appreciate the wholly different and refreshing exercise that he had just seen.

As the media give people more control over their own lives as consumers and leisure-seekers and students, so it can give people more opportunities to speak out as part of a democracy. Instead of being cooped up for years and let out to vote only every so often, this programme proved that the British public is now ready to take on to television not only its confessions and its agonies and its amiable idiosyncrasies, but its passionate conviction about the state we are in. I would bet that the Greeks in the 5th century, when all the citizens collected together for their experiments in democracy, sounded very much like the British public on ITV the other night. More please, but with fewer panelists.

No ugly ducklings on this royal lake

Tchaikovsky's great ballet is never far from the Covent Garden repertoire, a useful touchstone for assessing the performing health of the Royal Ballet. This time around the diagnosis is encouragingly upbeat: strong at the top and bottom, a little weak in the middle.

One of the reasons for *Swan Lake*'s popularity is that it shines a spotlight on the corps de ballet, the stunning backbone of the two "white" acts. The entry of the Royal's swans in Act II is a moment of glorious precision dancing, drilled to perfection and then beautifully polished.

Swan Lake is also full of delightful variations, and the quality of these vary from competent to — in the case of Belinda Hatley in one pas de

trois, and Hubert Essakow in another — excellent. There is also much to admire in Ashley Page's Von Rothbart, a characterisation so malicious and so delicious.

And in the space of just a few minutes, William Tuckett paints a touching cameo as the inebriated Tutor.

Miyako Yoshida and Irak Mukhamedov had first-cast honours as the leading couple. Not only is Yoshida an accomplished technician, she is also a dancer of the utmost clarity, particularly adept at mime. Her emphatic storytelling skills illuminate Odette's plight: the weighty sorrow inflicted by Von Rothbart's curse: the leap of faith that allows her to trust Sieghart.

Deborah Bull and Jonathan

Yoshida's Odette is not visually animated — she saves that for Odile, a complete about-face in interpretation that sees her emerge triumphant as a beguiling seductress. And to put the icing on the cake, Yoshida delivered a flawless set of fouette turns made even more formidable by turning every fourth one into a double pirouette.

Prince Sieghart is a good role for Mukhamedov. He is right at home in the story, giving the improbabilities of the narrative an emotional realism. Mukhamedov's tender attention to his ballerina is admirable and his solos are neatly judged to flatter both himself and the choreography?

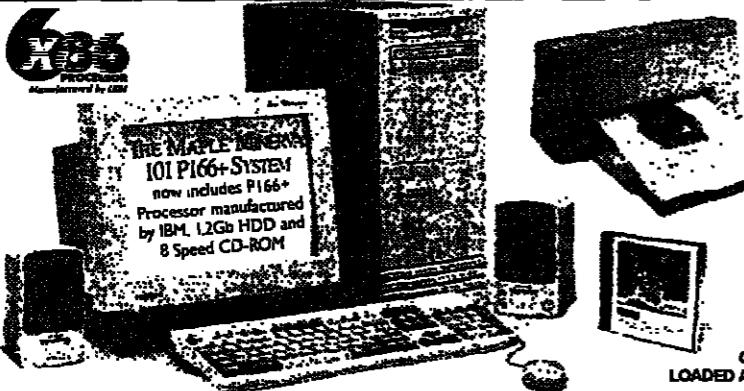
DEBRA CRAINE



Anthony Dowell's decade-old *Swan Lake* is in good health at Covent Garden, although the designs have not improved with age

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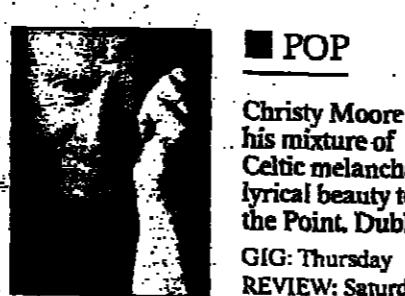
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■ MUSIC



Fifty years after his debut the guitarist Julian Bream celebrates at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. CONCERT: Thursday. REVIEW: Saturday

■ POP



Christy Moore brings his mixture of Celtic melancholy and lyrical beauty to the Point, Dublin. GIG: Thursday. REVIEW: Saturday

■ FILM



Singer on screen: Whitney Houston plays a central role in *The Preacher's Wife*. OPENS: Friday. REVIEW: Thursday

■ BOOKS



Michael Dobbs is back, but Francis Urquhart isn't the latest Westminster thriller is *Goodfellow MP*. IN THE SHOPS: Now. REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: A new look for a small but important London venue; plus a moving real-life tale of Hollywood

Back in business, slow start

The Bush men and Bush women are back in their attic after six months absence, and the Bush theatre now has its own entrance and its own tiny foyer. That is just as well, for it saves you entering via a pub which has changed its name to the Frink and Fink.

The new owners have rebuilt that nice old, tacky old bar and added what someone on the payroll, maybe a failed alternative comedian, distantly related to the Marquis de Sade, presumably regards as



Doing the author proud: David Hounslow and Anne Carroll in Richard Cameron's new play for the reopened Bush, *All Of You Mine*

All Of You Mine
Bush

improvements. You drink your Twyvie Ale near signs pointing to the Frink Loo or the Frink Fodder, or sip your Shakes Beer beneath a slogan reading "Shakespeare Took the Idea for Hamlet from Bacon", and all to ear-splitting music from inside the walls.

The changes in the theatre itself are less noticeable. The lighting and sound are controlled from a smart new booth; and the seats have been slightly deepened. The chair in front of me still managed to dig its elbows into my shins and leave surprisingly little room for my feet; but that was oddly refreshing after the garish adownstairs.

The good news is that the Bush is back in creative business under its recently appointed director, Mike Spurrell.

He is an able fellow, and will need to be since his predecessor, Dominic Dromgoole, relocated the Bush at the very centre of the theatrical map. Only the Theatre Upstairs can rival its record for discovering lively, abrasive new writers. And how clever could Bravwell signal his intention to keep faith with that renaissance than by reopening the theatre with a play by Richard Cameron.

What happened in Cameron's

of *Pond Life* and *The Mortal Ash* and one of Dromgoole's prime finds?

That said, I must admit to being mildly disappointed by *All Of You Mine*. Some sharp characterisation does not quite compensate for a plot that lacks the tension it seems implicitly to be claiming for itself. Seeing the play is like watching a man painstakingly stretch a piece of elastic so far that you are wishing it would split apart well before it seems. Maybe the Cade clan was implicated.

You cannot expect solid York-

shire folk to start replacing their grumbles of "no respect for now and nobody" with pastiche Lorca or Shakespeare. But if Cameron's dialogue had more spring in its boots, and the director, Simon Usher, had cut some of the more plodding bits, I would have been more excited by the revelations and stirred by the denouement. But at least we get a look at a mining village metaphorically as well as literally trying to grow flowers on the stony. At least David Hounslow, Melanie Kilburn and others

do their author proud. Two are particularly impressive: Lee Oakes as a spoilt, scowling adolescent on the brink of his first job and Anne Carroll as the Cade matriarchal, a feisty, plain-speaking old bat with softer feelings than she cares to show. Yet even they could not give the play enough energy for lift-off. Yes, the Bush is back in business but, no, it is not yet creatively airborne again.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

I dub thee forever the unsung queen

Showstopper
Arts Theatre

The story of Marin Nixon is as curious as it is strangely moving. Not only did she give Audrey Hepburn and Deborah Kerr their on-screen singing voices in *My Fair Lady* and *The King and I*, but she pulled off an astonishing double when she dubbed both Natalie Wood and Rita Moreno for the film version of *West Side Story*.

According to Dame Rebekah's quirky one-woman play, the dubbing queen of the Sixties could barely muster a thank you, let alone a film credit from the stars whose voices she salvaged. She craved recognition, yet she was paid to be invisible. Her one brief

flicker of screen life as a singing nun in *The Sound of Music* was remarkable only for its negligibility. If Rebekah tells the story right, Nixon's tragedy is that she lived perpetually in the shadow of fame without being acknowledged by the stars she dubbed or the audiences. In view of all this obscurity and Rebekah's somewhat cautious decision to rename Nixon as Carole James, one half expects to be confronted by a one-eyed leper with no legs. Not so. As wittily played by Jackie Clune, Carole is pretty, flirtatious and an inveterate studio gossip. The play starts, disarmingly enough, with Carole fluffing a cue in a spartan recording studio.

It is caustic, throwaway stuff. Green Room slatings that seem harmless enough, until we gradually become aware of Carole's fixation with Audrey Hepburn, a

star she is so intimately but distantly entwined with on film. You notice that she dresses like Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. That she quotes her most famous lines. That there is, in fact, a grand canyon between Carole's inflated perception of herself and Hepburn's fame, mesmerisingly captured by Jackie Clune.

What doesn't work is the play's reliance on the one-sided conversation. The more Rebekah uses invisible interlocutors such as Carole's gay agent to prod the story along, the more contrived and awkward the play becomes. Nevertheless Clune generates some wonderful comic desperation.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

REVIEW BY DOROTHY HARRIS

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Matthew Parris



■ The public this, the public that... But a columnist soon finds that people are anything but homogeneous

Newspaper columns are a long-distance relay, the runner the columnist, the page his track. It was there before he started and remains when he goes, but around his allotted laps he trots or powers his way, sometimes flagging, sometimes finding new energy.

By this columnist, on this page, the baton was taken up nearly nine years ago. Not for me, then, the 100-yard sprint or the special commentary from the celebrity outside-contributor. Instead a certain gentle stammering was required: but for a journey which is not gruelling, but rather a kind of odyssey.

As any distance runner knows, in our event there is time to observe the observers. The sprinter is the spectacle: the crowd looks in — at him. But the marathoner looks out. He can scrutinise the faces as he passes — even exchange a little banter with his audience. For me the most surprising pleasure of writing this column has been to make the acquaintance of tens of thousands of readers, who have written to contribute thoughts, criticism, encouragement — and even, just occasionally, abuse.

The pleasure was unexpected. I receive between 20 and 100 letters a week. To my dear secretary Eileen Wright has fallen the task of typing and sending out my replies, and for me there has usually been time to do little more than read each letter and thank its sender. I thought that with the years, a columnist would grow cynical about this task. Instead, my interest in my readers, and my respect for them, has grown.

They are such good, nice people. The news media subject us to a daily bombardment of horrible stories about the misdeeds of our countrymen: it can lead us to despair of fellow Britons. If you want an antidote, read the daily postbag from the readers of a *Times* columnist. You will find that far from being alone in a nation of thugs, yobs and cheats, you are surrounded out there in the dark by millions of intelligent, kindly, lively souls astonishingly various in their habits and opinions, but united by a civilising tolerance and tremendous goodwill.

If it was ever the case that the *Times* reader was a predictable type — rich, snuffy, "Establishment" and almost certainly male — then my postbag tells me that it is emphatically not the case now. Every human type is there. Some are rich, most strike me as neither rich nor poor, and a notable group are of above average education and below average income: young people and old (especially elderly ladies), who in material terms have quite a struggle and for whom an intelligent newspaper represents a vantage point from which to survey the world of ideas, research and the arts. Perhaps my correspondents are anything but homogeneous.

Matthew Parris's new column begins on Friday.

Overseas aid

NEW YORKERS are cranking up their efforts on behalf of Tony Blair and the Labour Party. Following John Prescott's visit to town in September, when he addressed the 20th Congress of the Socialist International in Restaurant 44 at the Royalton Hotel, key Labour supporters have sent out a letter arranging more meetings with Shadow ministers and asking for cash.

Chief among New York's left-eatarians are Harold Evans, chairman of the publishers Random House and a former editor of this newspaper, Brian McNally, a modish restaurateur, and Howard Stringer, a television executive.

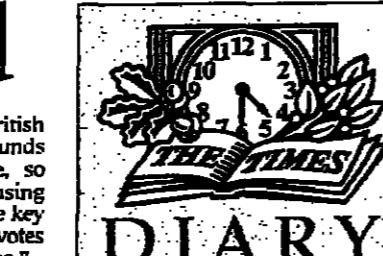
"Since that breakfast in September," reads the letter, "the Government's majority in the House of Commons has vanished, and the election can be no more than three or four months away... We are planning a function on Wall Street with Shadow ministers as speakers." A Los Angeles event is also planned.

The letter ends with a plea for funds — from British citizens only of course, in the light of Tony Blair's abhorrence of foreign funding. "The Conservative Party is

very richly funded. In British elections, a few thousand pounds can make all the difference, so Labour's work in the US is focusing on aid from expatriates for the key seats... where a few hundred votes can critically affect the outcome."

• *Freya, a rare breed Gloucester Old Spot pig, is the newest addition to Highgrove, the Prince of Wales's Gloucestershire estate. She is the gift of a local farmer, Lewis Barnfield, who was chosen by the Gloucester Old Spot Society to find a companion for the Prince's Old Spot boar. Explaining his choice, Barnfield said "she has a few more spots than the others."*

As if things weren't bad enough, they tell us now that smoking ages you"



to Highgrove, the Prince of Wales's Gloucestershire estate. She is the gift of a local farmer, Lewis Barnfield, who was chosen by the Gloucester Old Spot Society to find a companion for the Prince's Old Spot boar. Explaining his choice, Barnfield said "she has a few more spots than the others."

Quiet life

IN all the fuss surrounding the siting of Wafic Said's Oxford business school, one powerful individual has kept quiet. Dr Colin Lucas, the Master of Balliol, lives at the King's Mount, a large house bang next to the Mansfield Road sports ground where Said wanted his school to be built.

Lucas, who is due to take over as the university's Vice-Chancellor in

October, will be delighted that the original plan has been squashed on two counts. Not only will the relocation of the school quell what promised to be some vicious, port-fuelled common-room fights, but it will also guarantee the peace around his digs.

"Colin has said he doesn't mind the school being built here — he's a diplomatic sort of chap," said an Oxford colleague of Lucas yesterday. "but I'm sure he'll be secretly relieved it's going somewhere else."

Wakey wakey

WITH the Referendum Party launching its unrelenting new advertising campaign over the weekend, one question is being asked by its supporters: Where's Jimmy?



While John Major and Tony Blair filled the holiday media with their outpourings, Sir James Goldsmith has been whooping it up at Cuixmala, his elephantine Mexican resort.

He is now packing up the suncream, just as the last fairlight is unplugged from his lavish new year's party, for which he flew over a Boeing-full of guests, and preparing to return to Putney, where he is standing for Parliament. Among the party leaders, only Paddy Ashdown, who has been showing form on the parliamentary skiing trip in Davos, can compare.

Sir James's able-bodied assistant, Patrick Robertson, was rather evasive about the leader's absence: "Where is Sir James?" I asked. "He's raring to go," says Robertson.

"So he won't be at the launch of your new campaign?"
"He's raring to go."

Snooze news

IT IS reassuring that the Tories are scheduling human amounts of sleep for the Prime Minister during the general election campaign. Sadly, it is unlikely we will ever get to see the PM's flop-room, after some snobbish remarks in the press to Norma Major's comment that the couple have a Teamade beside their bed.

Nevertheless, some facts on Major's sleeping habits: when the strains of London become too much, he likes to retreat under the covers in Huntingdon; Mrs Major has publicly vowed to sleep in all the four-poster beds at Chequers before she is forced to leave; according to a friend who once stumbled into the PM's bedroom in Downing Street by accident, John Major is the first Prime Minister in history to take advantage of a duvet.

Fluent

ALL the usual steel magnolia stuff written about ballerinas should be multiplied by ten in the case of Darcey Bussell, heroine of the Roy-

Labour would still rather have university entrants with three Cs at A-level from state comprehensives than with three As from private schools. For them, it is the principle of the thing. In this respect, Tony Blair is perhaps more blameworthy than his predecessors, who at least believed that there was scope for higher taxes. He knows there is not.

Shocking as this is, it does not do any credit to the Conservative Party. During this Parliament, these problems have become more and more pressing. Despite having to raise taxes, the Tories still aim to be the low-tax party. They have never imagined that it would be possible, or desirable, to raise taxes by an extra £6.5 billion for health, and perhaps another £6.5 billion for education. They have let these services drift closer and closer to insolvency. Yet they did nothing effective to expand private spending. In the 1980s the Tories privatised housing, another public social service that had gone into decline. They did not expand the private sector in health or education in the 1990s. This has not been a Conservative Government of ideas, but a Government as frightened of ideas as a timid old lady of mice.

The Conservatives have no answer to the underfunding of health and education if they are not prepared either to raise taxes or to expand the private sector. But nor does Labour. However, the electorate knows that these services, particularly health, are in steep decline. Large parts of the hospital service are so overstretched that they have become no better than a poor-law system. Tony Blair's policy of hostility to private funding, but no more taxes, is grousing. But what is one to say of a Government too cowardly to expand private funding while it still had the power to do so? The danger now is that Labour will win the election on policies which will actually make things worse.

Closing the health and education gaps

In 1964, I took part in the first modern election-night broadcast on ITN. Alastair Burnet was in the chair, and an early computer was cranking out forecasts of the overall outcome as the first constituency results came in. The computer started by forecasting a Conservative majority of just under 20. I remember saying flatly, and correctly, that the computer had got it wrong, and that Labour had won the election. I turned out to be right, at least on that occasion.

The reason I felt so confident was that the early 1960s had already seen a cultural revolution, of which *The Sunday Times*, on which I was then working, was an important agent. It was the period of the first colour magazine, edited by Mark Boxer; most of the rising journalists on *The Sunday Times*, including the "insight" team and Harold Evans, were in their early 30s; they represented part of a cultural revolution of youth which turned out to be worldwide. I was myself 31 when I went to *The Sunday Times* in 1960. I was a balancing rather than reinforcing factor in the cult of youth on the paper, sometimes going with and sometimes standing against the fashion tide, but I was there, and I knew that this cultural revolution was happening. That was why I was so certain that Harold Wilson had won the election. He was the candidate of the new and the young.

It seems that something of the same sort is happening again in British politics. Even at my later age, having seen so many political hopes for Britain frustrated, Tony Blair's campaign has some appeal. I think that the *ultimate future of the country will be found through the Conservative Party*, just as it was in the 1960s. But I recognise that my 30-year-old self would have been disillusioned by the present exhaustion of Conservative policy, and stimulated by the energy and seriousness with which Tony

Blair puts his case. Hope is a potent weapon in politics, with a strong appeal to the young. In 1964, Wilson offered hope, while Alec Douglas-Home only offered a sceptical experience. It is much the same now with Tony Blair and John Major.

Yet I cannot convince myself that Labour's central equation can be made to balance. On yesterday's *Breakfast With Frost*, Tony Blair rightly emphasised the need to spend more money on education; there is also a need to spend more money on health. The Labour Party is correct in asserting that these two central social services are inadequately funded, and that the Conservatives have failed to make the improvements that are needed.

In the case of the health service, a cold spell lasting for no more than two weeks has overwhelmed the reserve capacity of the hospital system. The Bristol Royal Infirmary has had to turn the gravely ill out of their beds to accommodate the even more seriously ill. In Bristol, you cannot get into a hospital unless your doctor will sign a chit guaranteeing you will be dead within two weeks. Several hundred people in London have found themselves waiting on stretchers in hospital corridors, some of them patients with terminal diseases. This is a disgrace, and a disgrace with a clearly identifiable cause. For decades, the number of hospital beds per thousand in Britain has been falling, not only absolutely but relative to

other European countries. We now have the lowest hospital bed provision in Western Europe, a third less than France or Germany, no more than Spain. This fall has continued at speed under the Major administration with the closure of hospitals and the threatened closure of more. It is ultimately an economic issue. Britain spends a lower proportion of its national income on health than France or Germany. By comparative European figures, health provision needs another 1 per cent of

gross domestic product to be restored to viability. That is £6.5 billion.

This is where the Labour equation comes unstuck. There is a worldwide public reluctance to pay higher taxes. Changes in employment patterns are making direct taxes progressively harder to collect. There are other competing claims on public funds. On the Continent, tax expenditure on health is no higher than it is here, but private expenditure, through insurance schemes or otherwise, is much higher. If Britain wants to bring health provision up to the European standard, it is the private

sector that needs to be expanded.

State education is also underfunded at every level: universities have been expanded far beyond the funds which were made available. As a result, teachers are underpaid and many of the best of them have left the profession. It is calculated that secondary teachers in Britain are paid little more than half what those in France receive. The greatest contrast is between the private and public sector. Universities have to adjust their admission standards to allow for the advantage of education in the private sector; the gap between private and public is much wider than it was 50 years ago. The Labour Party plans to widen the gap between private and public opportunities further by abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme, a scandalous anti-education decision. New Labour has overthrown many of the statist obsessions of old Labour, but not this one. New Labour is just as determined to prefer the public to the private sector in the social services as old Labour was to prefer and enlarge the public sector in industry. In the social services, Clause Four remains with all its ugly force. No matter that Labour now recognises that taxes cannot be raised, and that tax-funded services will inevitably therefore be underfunded. Labour would still rather have cancer patients dying on trolleys in overcrowded NHS hospitals than properly cared for under insurance schemes in private hospitals.

over the new Clause Four and the pre-manifesto statement last autumn. He would be prepared to do so again in government. The party's National Executive Committee will shortly consider proposals aimed at avoiding the hydra situation that arose so often in the 1970s, when the party itself (both the annual conference and the NEC) became a focus of public opposition to the Labour Government, to the frequent anger of James Callaghan. The suggestion now is that most ministers would not serve on the NEC, which would become more of an organisational committee for the party, without a major policymaking role.

More important than such institutional changes would be the attitude of Labour MPs — not so much the depleted and divided forces of the Left as the many in the centre. Many MPs, and candidates in winnable seats, are now going along with Blairism less out of conviction than because they do not want to rock the boat before a victory. How far are they fair-weather allies? Mr Blair places much faith, possibly too much, in the attitudes of the likely new intake and the new party members, half of whom have joined since he became leader. Other Blairites are more worried about internal party tensions, from the Shadow Cabinet downwards. Paradoxically, a key measure of the success of Mr Blair's attempt to create a "new" party and government may be whether some on the Left split off, possibly to be replaced by some of the sturdier Liberal Democrats and even some pro-European Tories.

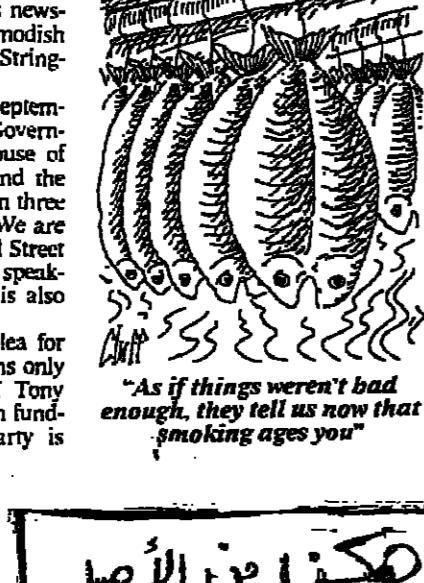
As Mr Blair said last week, his aim is to establish a record on education, reform of the welfare state, decentralisation and relations with business and Europe that earns "the chance to carry forward our programme in a further term of office. Five years is too short a time to complete the process of reform." But the ability of a Blair government to win two terms and avoid "tears" will depend crucially on continuing to change the character of the Labour Party — in effect by creating a new party.



Darcey Bussell: heroine of the Royal Ballet. On Saturday, Miss Bussell, who I regret to say is soon to marry, danced her way through Act One of Swan Lake, including the notoriously gruelling "Rose Adagio", with scarcely a smile. This despite being one of the many currently feeling the flu.

At the interval it was announced that having done the tricky bit, she had taken to her bed and would not be returning to the stage. Flowers may be sent to Covent Garden.

P.H.S



As if things weren't bad enough, they tell us now that smoking ages you"

sacher
parent
chairs

NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER

Flexibility, not insecurity, should govern the labour market

The middle classes do not have jobs; they have careers. The expectation of a smooth upward progression at work is surely one of the defining stamps of middle-class life. Yet, as our series starting today shows, the conventional linear career is becoming as dated as a bowler hat. And what many middle-aged managers and professionals found out the hard way during the last recession, their children and grandchildren are accepting as a fact of life.

Not only can the young expect to change jobs every few years: a combination of global competition and fast-moving technology may well compel them to make three or four career changes too, as well as cope with the odd spell out of the labour market. Their lives will be far less secure than those of their parents, cushioned as they used to be by committed employers and a cradle-to-grave welfare state. But they will have more fun. And above all they will have the chance to design their own careers.

Resourcefulness, resilience, adaptability and salesmanship will be the ingredients for success in the new world of work. People will have to package themselves for the job market, to run their careers almost like businesses. They will have to redefine success and failure so that a spell of unemployment is seen as an opportunity to regroup rather than a catastrophe. And they will have to concentrate on building skills that make them employable, rather than simply finding jobs.

For some, this shift could be as psychologically destabilising as the Industrial Revolution. Then people had to get used to the idea of working full-time for others, instead of sporadically and mainly for themselves. There were riots, arson and murders as those who felt enslaved by the new world of the wage tried to fight back.

Today's model may be as liberating as the old was enslaving, but for many freedom itself is something to fear. To adapt to the

modern career requires a reassessment: people will have to define themselves not by what they do, but by what they do well. Skills will determine success in life, and they may be adapted to different jobs at different times. A willingness to go back to school, literally and figuratively, will be necessary. Lifetime learning will be the backbone of the new career.

Modern working life, though, will be more fun. The days of a young graduate spending many boring years in the expectation that promotion would eventually make the sacrifice worthwhile are over. Companies are now offering their best graduates responsibility much earlier. That is because the implicit contract between employer and employee is changing. Corporate loyalty for young people is being replaced by the job as a deal: I will offer you my services in return for you making me more employable elsewhere. This is a rational response. They know they must manage their own careers, since they cannot rely on their employer doing it for them.

Some people will be prepared to sacrifice status for security. At Rover, for instance, job security for all is now guaranteed, but in return employees have to be prepared to do absolutely any job, welding a spanner if necessary. And only last week, Blue Circle signed a job security deal with the GMB general union.

But more employees are likely to opt for the insecure but entrepreneurial model. This could be profoundly democratising. Working-class people have long had to be philosophical about the vicissitudes of life, employed as many of them have been in declining or cyclical industries. That the middle classes too are learning to pick themselves up and dust themselves down several times in a working life may do more to create common understanding than anything a politician spouting about a classless society will ever manage to achieve.

ATHENS AND ANKARA

The Eastern Question has returned, dangerous and complex

Turkey's threats to carry out a pre-emptive military strike on any air defence system installed on Cyprus shows how dangerously the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean has deteriorated. Once a dependable Nato ally, Turkey appears now to be drifting out of control. Tempers are rising in Cyprus, together with irresponsible brinkmanship. Athens and Ankara, relations at an all-time low, are accusing each other of preparing for war. And the Pentagon admits that its relationship with Turkey is breaking down.

Blame for the latest crisis lies unambiguously with the Cyprus Government. Its decision to buy an air defence system from Russia can only complicate attempts to broker a solution between the island's Greek and Turkish communities. Indeed, raising the temperature appears to have been the main reason for the deal, with the Cyprus Government hoping to provoke Turkey into the kind of bellicose response that will rally the rest of Europe behind Nicosia.

Such calculations are particularly irresponsible at present. For the Turkish Government of Necmet Erbakan, its Islamist Prime Minister, is in no mood to pay heed to any pressure from its Western partners. Mr Erbakan veers from one extreme to another, torn between the demands of his radical Islamic ideology and the constraints of pragmatism. Tansu Ciller, the Foreign Minister, is clinging to almost any lifeline that will prevent a wave of corruption charges breaking over her. A series of scandals has linked her True Path Party with underworld gangs. And the Turkish Army, always a formidable force, is waiting, frustrated in the wings, unable to win the

war against Kurdish terrorism or to break the political deadlock.

Equally important, however, is the breakdown in relations with Europe and America. Since the election of Mr Erbakan, Washington has had little dialogue with a man who appears, by his visits to Iran and Libya, intent on snubbing the Americans. And the traditional lines of communication with the army have been blocked by disagreement on two vital issues: Iraq and arms supplies. The army is resentful of the American presence in Iraq, dislikes the air patrols operating from the Incirlik base, and believes the protection of Iraqi Kurds has given safe haven to PKK terrorists trying to overthrow the Turkish state.

Turkish relations with Europe are little better. The European Union, having agreed to a customs union with Turkey, refuses still, under pressure from Greece, to release to Ankara Mediterranean funds amounting to some \$100 million at a time when Turkey is now suffering a \$10 billion trade deficit with the EU because of the customs union. The European Parliament has also raised the Kurdish issue and human rights to prevent any closer political dialogue.

Turkey occupies a vital geostrategic position. Its outreach into the Middle East, Russia and Central Asia is considerable; its regional military and economic strength is impressive. Yet it is falling into a political morass and spiritual malaise of its own making. Neither its European nor American partners have formulated a coherent strategy to rekindle their links with Ankara. The Eastern Question has returned in all its historical complexity and danger.

GOING UNDERGROUND

Privatising the Tube would show a sense of Tory direction

Clear blue water can be found underground in London — not in the River Fleet, but on the Tube. Conservative plans to privatise the London Underground are welcome evidence of a dash of radicalism from a party that seemed content to enter the election on a safety-first platform. Privatising the Tube may not have the instant attractions for voters of the Treasury, of previous sell-offs. Persistent underinvestment in the Underground means that a significant capital outlay will be required under any new owner. Both taxpayers and travellers may bear part of that burden, but the most effective guarantee that new money will be effectively used relies on the application of rigorous market discipline.

Rail privatisation, damned before the first detail had been worked out as "the poll tax on wheels", has proved modest but real success. A more flexible fare structure and greater room for management innovation have improved the service for many passengers. The most obvious improvements have been registered on flagship routes such as the East Coast main line where sharper selling has stung airline rivals into a price war, with the traveller the gainer.

Opponents of Tube privatisation have attempted to create barriers by rehearsing variations on the same themes that have haunted all sell-offs. Critics exaggerate the resistance of consumers to change, the threat to peripheral services and the difficulty of ensuring effective competition. But the privatisation of the Underground should be,

in principle, no more problematic than that of any utility.

It would be foolish to play down the difficulties. London Underground, like the nation's sewerage system, is a triumph of imperial-era engineering undermined by generations of underinvestment. The Tube suffers from creaking architecture, ageing rolling-stock, rigidly unionised staff and a management handcuffed to public sector practices.

Any privatisation would probably have to be underwritten by an initial subsidy to keep fares down. Privatisation would, however, release capital buried in unnecessary property holdings and allow a more imaginative deployment of resources.

Managers would also be free to make employment savings. Union intransigence

has prevented the most efficient use of staff and the Underground could operate more effectively with far fewer workers than its current complement of 15,000. Norman Lamont, John Redwood and Michael Heseltine have all investigated means of ensuring an effective transfer of the Tube into private hands and Mr Redwood's proposal to give every Londoner the chance to take a stake in the network is a daring development in the successful tradition of franchising those most directly affected by privatisation.

If the Government is to deserve re-election it must show it has not run out of steam — privatising the Underground would be evidence of a commitment to its traditional enterprise ideals and proof of continuing vitality.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Change to rules on teachers' pensions

From Dr Leslie Bather

Sir, When militant teachers disrupted the education of their own pupils their favourite weapon was the "withdrawal of goodwill".

Now the National Association of Head Teachers proposes to do the same to 20,000 student teachers who might be boycotted by its members in order to bully the Government into abandoning its plan to tighten up on superannuation arrangements which allow teachers to retire without providing full medical evidence of ill-health (report, January 8).

Head teachers should have strong support from the Government over the removal of jaded, lazy or stressed-out teachers, but this particular proposal is objectionable for several reasons.

Heads would be teaching their pupils that bullying and blackmail are acceptable ways to get what you want.

They would be setting a dreadful example to entrants to the profession just at the crucial moment when student teachers are establishing their expectations of professional conduct.

If head teachers let down the student teachers who need their help, they can hardly complain when militant teachers once again want to use their own pupils as pawns in a dispute over pay.

Such behaviour, by head teachers of all people, might well undermine the ideals of some excellent school students who are seriously considering entering the profession.

Yours faithfully,

LESLIE BATHER

(Headmaster, Bishopshalt School, Hillingdon, 1970-90).

28 Whitehouse Way,

Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire.

January 9.

From the Secretary of the HMC

Sir, Your report gives some indication of the strength of feeling in the teaching profession at the proposed changes to our pension scheme. It is well understood that more cannot be paid out in pensions than is received in contributions (though until recently contributions exceeded payments). It is the implementation of the proposed sudden change in regulations in the middle of the school year which would be unacceptable.

Perfectly legitimate applications for early retirement from heads and teachers, who have given as much as 35 years dedicated service to the profession but are now worn out, will have to be turned down because employers (particularly in the independent sector) cannot put around the necks of future generations the milestone of continued additional pension contributions as long as the recipients or spouses are alive.

The Government should date any changes in the regulations from the end of the school year (August 31), allowing those whose applications have been accepted to go under existing arrangements. In the longer term, discussions should take place to afford ways in which teachers can be allowed to retire early without financial penalty.

Yours faithfully,

V. S. ANTHONY

(Secretary, The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, 130 Regent Road, Leicester.

January 9.

From Mr M. G. Sansbury

Sir, The retirement of four out of five teachers before 60 suggests a serious loss of skill and experience, a great deal of dissatisfaction and frustration, and levels of stress met in few other professions.

There are obvious reasons for this untimely exodus. One is the extra work now required outside the classroom, so that teachers spend many more hours working than before, not always with clear benefit to their pupils. Another is that teachers' best efforts are often frustrated by disruptive pupils.

Rather than trying to transfer part of the huge cost of early pensions to local authorities, the Department for Education and Employment should ease these and other causes of teachers' exasperation.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SANSBURY

16 Park Avenue,

Solihull, West Midlands.

January 8.

Enclosure Acts

From Mr M. Eden Irving

Sir, Let us hope that the Hull County Court judgment on the enforcement of a 1765 Enclosure Act in the matter of the Flamborough hedge (report and leading article, January 3; letters, January 9) may affect the enforcement of other Enclosure Acts.

We have the Haltwhistle Enclosure Act of 1844 which requires the trustees (now our town council) to have the town green (or "allotment") enclosed as a place for exercise and recreation "in the first instance... fenced and drained at the general expense, and the fences and drains of such allotment shall for ever afterwards [my italics] be repaired and maintained by the... overseers [now town council]."

Ever afterwards? It doesn't look like it from the present state of our green.

Yours faithfully,

M. EDEN IRVING

The Cogin, Comb Hill,

Haltwhistle, Northumberland.

January 9.

The finders and keepers of treasure

From Mr Simon Denison

Sir, In Gary Slapper's article on the new Treasure Act (Law, "Whose treasure now?", January 7), he reports the National Council of Metal Detecting's view that many of its members "will give up the hobby because there will no longer be any incentive". This is presumably because under the Act more artefacts are considered "treasure", and therefore the property of the Crown.

As joint author of the report *Metal Detecting and Archaeology in England* (English Heritage/CBA, 1995), from which some of Dr Slapper's statistics are taken and which formed one of the main influences behind the new Act, I am convinced that there are no real losers. The Act covers only a limited range of artefacts, providing plenty for detectorists to find and keep legitimately; it also provides that full financial compensation should be made to any finders of "treasure", exactly as before.

The long-running attempt to change the formerly absurd law of treasure trove has been dogged throughout by an impression that it represents a battle between "good" archaeologists and "bad" metal detectorists — an impression stoked up by irascible members of both sides.

The truth is rather that most archaeologists welcome the extremely productive efforts of detectorists to find buried artefacts — provided they share their knowledge — and most detectorists are delighted to be asked to help in the wider quest for knowledge about Britain's past.

Yours faithfully,

SIMON DENISON

(Editor, *British Archaeology*, Council for British Archaeology, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walngate, York.

January 8.

From Mr Andrew Selkirk

Sir, Following the recent Treasure Act, the Department of National Heritage has just produced a draft code of practice which appears to allocate all "finds of national importance" (ie, the best) to the national museum and only treasure of local importance (ie, the second-best) to local museums. Apparently (this is not clear) the British Museum is left to decide which is which.

Perfectly legitimate applications for early retirement from heads and teachers, who have given as much as 35 years dedicated service to the profession but are now worn out, will have to be turned down because employers (particularly in the independent sector) cannot put around the necks of future generations the milestone of continued additional pension contributions as long as the recipients or spouses are alive.

Although the Government has rightly recognised that, as a matter of good practice, the "development of a working partnership with parents is usually the most effective route to providing supplementary or substitute care for their children" (Department of Health guidance on the Act, 1990, my emphasis), the word "partnership" does not appear in the Act at all.

In my experience, the fact that some social workers hold the belief that working in partnership with parents is an absolute legislative requirement that must be applied in all cases has blighted the futures of a number of children that the 1990 Act was meant to protect.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD JONES

(Solicitor).

18 Meadowside,

Penarth, South Glamorgan.

January 7.

Water buffalo

From Mr Martin Nicol

Sir, I was intrigued to read of Bob Palmer's success in farming water buffalo (report, January 2; letter, January 7). In the jungles of South-East Asia, "sabang", as they are known in Malay, are notorious for charging through the jungle on the slightest pretext, and the local population uses the name to refer to humans with a similar disposition.

During my army jungle training anyone covered in cuts and bruises at the end of the day's hard slog was referred to as a "sabang". Mr Palmer's herd looks remarkably civilised, so perhaps would be no use for training Territorials in jungle warfare.

Yours sincerely,

MARTIN NICOL

20 Graham Terrace, SW1.

January 8.

Drug companies' duty

From Mrs W. Ratley

Sir



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 12: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Guildford preached the Sermon. Her Majesty presented The

Queen's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence at King Edward VI High School, King's Lynn, to Miss Tabitha Cooper, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr Michael Walker, the Headmaster.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as President of The Prince's Trust, will address The Prince's Trust Scottish Study Support Conference at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, The Exchange, Morrison Street, at 11.30am; will visit Phase One improvements of The Royal Mile, Mercat Cross, at 1pm; and will open the Scottish Tartans Museum at The Scotch House, Princes Street, Edinburgh, at 2.30pm.

Princess Margaret, as Patron of The Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom, will attend a ceremony for the presentation of awards to students of the college's institute at the Barbican at 3.30pm.

Annual meeting

Medical Officers of Schools Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Medical Officers of Schools Association took place on Saturday, January 11, 1997, at the London Bridge Hospital. This was preceded by a Clinical Meeting.

The Duke of Gloucester has become Patron of the Royal Anthropological Institute for five years from January 1997.

The Duchess of Gloucester has become Patron of Parkinson's Disease Society and of the Royal School for the Blind. Seeability for five years from January 1997.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jan van Goyen, landscape painter, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1596; Charles Perrault, writer and collector of folktales, Paris, 1628.

DEATHS: Edmund Spenser, poet, London, 1599; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, London, 1691; John Scott, 1st Earl of Eldon, Lord Chancellor 1801-6 and 1807-27, London, 1832; Fabian Bellingshausen, polar explorer, Russia, 1852; Stephen Collins Foster, songwriter, New York, 1847; Sir John Seeley, historian, Cambridge, 1895; James Joyce, novelist, Zurich, 1941; Hubert Humphrey, American Vice-President 1965-9, Waverley, Minnesota, 1978.

The Independent Labour Party was formed under Keir Hardie, 1893. NASA selected its first women astronauts, 1978.

Nature notes

YOUNG magpies are gathering in chattering flocks in the treetops, probably sizing up prospective partners for the spring. Sometimes a carrion crow will dive in among the flock to try to scatter it. During the cold weather last week, carrion crows were venturing close to the wolves in London Zoo, trying to peck at the meat that the keepers had thrown into their compound.

Woodpigeons are singing again in the bare trees, and some will soon be building their nests of sticks. Starlings are singing in a desultory way, with many clicks, trills and whistles. Blackbirds, robins and song-thrushes are feeding on earthworms that have come back to the surface of sodden lawns.

Lying on the ground under ash trees there are numerous winged brown seeds, or



The magpie

"keys": under willow trees, the dead leaves have turned silvery-grey.

The dainty trefoil leaves of wood sorrel are coming up in damp woods, while in roadside ditches the young leaves of goosegrass and cuckoo-pint are breaking through. Beds of moss are a brilliant green where the snow has melted into them. In some sheltered spots there are tiny white flowers on shepherd's purse: it is normally self-pollinated, so it has no need of insects.

DJM

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

DEATHS

ATKIN - On January 9th at St Peter's Hospital, Surbiton, Surrey, aged 80, Mrs. Barbara Atkinson, wife of Robert and Timothy, a son, James Timothy Neil.

BELL - On January 9th, to Georgina and Michael, a son, Nicholas.

ROPER-CURZON/GREEN - On December 20th 1996, to Henrietta and Kevin, a daughter, Eleanor Savannah.

SAVAGE - On 4th January 1997 - On January 9th at Peter's Hospital, Surbiton (code M4800), aged 80, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Benjamin James.

VERGOUROLIS - On January 10th, in Caxton (code Y620), aged 70, John, a beautiful daughter, Sasha Jennifer.

WELSH - On 3rd January 1997 at Shrewsbury Hospital, Prees, to Tim and Nicola (nee Williams), a beautiful daughter, Abigail Holly.

YOUNG - On January 10th, to Nicolas (code A9110) and Peter, a daughter, Alice Browne.

DEATHS

ARGENT - Terence Henry (Terry) on January 9th aged 70, Belgrave, Belgrave, short illness. Deaf, loved husband of Jeanne, beloved father of Christopher, grandfather of Annabelle, Katie and Natalie. Funeral service at 1.30pm on Saturday 11th January at 1st Marks Church, Staplefield, Sussex. Details in Memorial Service. Donations to the Alzheimer's Society. Inter: Donations please to St Michael's Hospice, 100 St Michael's Road, Cuckfield, West Sussex, RH16 4HW. Tel: (01444) 253655.

BARNESLEY - Jane Sophia, the much-loved mother of Geoffrey and Maureen, peacefully in King's College Hospital on January 9th, aged 80. Beloved wife of Thomas aged 82. Beloved husband of the late Vera Anne (nee Clark), loving wife of Geoffrey and mother of Susan and Jo. Cremation service at 1.30pm on Monday January 13th at 12 noon. Memorial service to be arranged at a later date in Parish Church. Donations may be made to the British Heart Foundation.

BROWN - On January 9th 1997 peacefully at Scars, Herne Bay, Kent. Beloved husband Thomas aged 82. Beloved husband of the late Vera Anne (nee Clark), loving father of Geoffrey and Susan and grandpa of Ben and Jo. Cremation service at 1.30pm on Monday January 13th at 12 noon. Memorial service to be arranged at a later date in Parish Church. Donations may be made to the British Heart Foundation.

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OBITUARIES

ELSPETH HUXLEY



Elspeth Huxley later recalled:

At the end of 1912 her parents went out to Kenya where Elspeth spent the next three years before returning to England with her mother at the end of 1915. (Her father had left Kenya a year before to rejoin the Royal Scots.) She returned to East Africa in 1919, having contrived to make herself an intolerable nuisance to her English school with that very end in mind. She continued her education in Nairobi until it was time to return to England, in 1925, to read for an agricultural diploma at Reading University. After taking her diploma she went to Cornell for a year.

In 1928 she went to work for the Empire Marketing Board and became assistant press officer. There she met Gervas Huxley, a cousin of the novelist Aldous, who was in charge of publicity, and in 1931 they married. A year later Gervas was appointed to the Ceylon Tea Board, and several years of extensive travel followed for both of them.

Elspeth was now invited by the widow of the 3rd Lord Delamere to write his life, and for this she needed to revisit East Africa, which she had not

seen for eight years. The resulting book, *White Man's Country: Lord Delamere and the Making of Kenya*, came out in 1935, a substantial and authoritative work which established her reputation. "If you go on like this," her husband's cousin Julian told her, "you will make quite a good Huxley." She had acquired the *excotheque* scribe, and a novel *Red Strangers* and several detective stories followed, all with an East African background.

Indeed, her African experience, three years as a child and six more in adolescence, would remain the source of her best books. These included two volumes of fictionalised autobiography, *The Flame Trees of Thika* (1959) and *The Mottled Lizard* (1962), *The Challenge of Africa* (1970) and *Livingstone and his African Journeys* (1974) followed, and in 1979 she published a volume of extracts from her mother's letters entitled *Nellie: Letters from Africa*, to which she prefixed a lengthy memoir.

Many consider this book as good as anything she ever wrote. She also published, in collaboration with Margery

Perham, *Race and Politics in Kenya* (1944) and she served as an independent member on the Monckton Advisory Committee on Central Africa in 1960. She was on the General Advisory Council of the BBC 1952-59; was a JP for Wiltshire, where she and Gervas had made their home from 1939, and took an active part in local affairs and causes. She was appointed CBE in 1962. She remained tireless into old age, her last book being *Peter Scott, Painter and Naturalist* (1993). She had earlier written *Scot of the Antarctic* (1977).

Her books are, at their best, distinguished by a clarity of exposition and incisiveness, personal qualities which made her a "good Huxley". They are also sometimes marred by inaccuracy and carelessness, thanks, in the main, to hasty composition. Her grandfather, she wrote, was born in the same year as Queen Victoria — she should have said, in the year when Queen Victoria came to the throne. Her book about the Wiltshire village where she lived, *Gallipot Eyes*, 1976, caused much offence (as such books almost always will) but not so much through lack of tact as through

lack of accuracy. As one of her neighbours remarked: "If Elspeth is right I don't think my elder children can be legitimate." She even perpetrated an un-Huxleyan howler by stating that red and grey squirrels are of a different genus.

Her published works recount her experience of Africa and England and of Australia, but they also reveal a personality too vigorous and outspoken to be overlooked. She was an excellent hostess and a welcome guest, whose independent mind ensured that conversation would not slide off into trivialities but would be more likely to provoke controversy — which she always enjoyed. And she respected the independence of others, of her mother, who lived to be 92, and of her son's three young sons whose childhood interests she sought to encourage from her own wide experience or by enlisting her friends' help when that was needed. She was not only a talented writer but an outstanding personality.

Gervas Huxley died in 1971 and she is survived by her son,

JILL SUMMERS

Jill Summers, *Coronation Street* actress, died from kidney failure in Salford on January 11 aged 86. She was born in 1910.

JILL SUMMERS had a long career in light entertainment and comedy that covered both variety and television. In the 1940s and 1950s she frequently topped the bill as a singer on the then powerful Moss Empire circuit. She was also a respected revue artist and character comedienne.

Although at one stage of her career she had been known as "the pin-up girl of British Railways", it was only in 1982 that she became a household name to millions as Phyllis Pearce, the blue-rinsed and gravel-voiced pensioner in *Coronation Street*. In TV's longest-running soap opera Phyllis was renowned as the local batteaxle and had opinions about everything, but the most important thing in her life was Percy Sugden, a similarly-natured, grumpy pensioner.

Percy was played by the actor Bill Waddington and three times a week viewers would try to guess whether Phyllis would ever tie the marital knot with him. She was famous for such lines as "Eeoh, Percy, luv, come round to my flat. I've made a lovely cake for you — you can just put your feet up and relax." She would give a sly wink and adjust her hair, while Percy promptly made a quick exit.

Jill Summers was born in Eccles, the daughter of Marie Santoni, an actress and singer, while her father, Alf Rozelle, worked in a circus as a tightrope walker. Although she spent some of her childhood with foster parents, her mother was keen that the entire family should work together in the business. Jill had four sisters and a brother, and while she was still only six the family toured the prov-

inces in small-scale revues, in which she emerged as a talented comedienne.

In her early twenties, she started a song and comedy act with her brother Tom. It was then that she damaged her vocal cords hitting a high note and ended up with the voice that became Phyllis Pearce's trademark.

She toured with Ensa during the Second World War, then returned to variety as a solo act, playing major dates in Britain and supporting on many occasions such people as Tommy Trinder, Max Wall, Dick Emery and Arthur Askey. As variety theatres closed in the late 1950s she appeared in summer seasons and pantomimes as a guest artiste, but it was in 1972 that she first appeared in *Corona-*

tion Street

as Bessie Proctor, Hilda Ogden's charwoman friend.

Ten years later she was offered the part of Phyllis Pearce, expecting to appear for only two weeks. She commented after ten years: "Phyllis grew on me and grew as a character. I loved the part."

She appeared in more than 500 episodes of the soap opera, although poor health kept recent appearances to a minimum.

Serious health worries began when she collapsed with angina on *This is Your Life* as Michael Aspel handed her the famous red book.

She married Dr Clifford

Simpson-Smith in 1948. They were married for 35 years until his death in 1983. She is survived by an adopted son.

Phyllis Pearce (Jill Summers) and her *Coronation Street* heart-throb Percy Sugden (Bill Waddington)

TOBY FALK



Toby Falk, art historian, died from cancer on January 10 aged 54. He was born on July 6, 1942.

THE early death of Toby Falk has taken from the fine art world one of its most highly respected connoisseurs. His contribution to the field of oriental miniatures and manuscripts, particularly that of Indian painting, was immense.

The younger son of a Wiltshire doctor, Stephen John Falk — invariably known as Toby — grew up in an environment of collecting, with his father patronising the work of modern British artists. Even at the age of three he discovered a silver thimble in what, he claimed, was a "dusty corner" at a children's party.

Educated at Rugby and King's College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences, he was a frequent visitor to the London museums and galleries of Bond Street and St James's. In the early Sixties, the Hungarian dealer Andra Kalman spotted his observant eye and felt he might become a painter.

He joined Sotheby's in 1964 as a porter, before moving to the book department to catalogue sales of oriental minia-

tures and manuscripts under the initial guidance of W.G. Archer, B.W. Robinson and Robert Skelton. His catalogues became valuable references for such collections as those of the Armenian collector Haggop Kevorkian, the 19th-century bibliophile Sir Thomas Phillips and the American scholar Cary Welch were highlights of a period that saw a growing Western interest in Islamic art. His catalogues themselves promoted the advance of knowledge in what had been a little-known area of art history and inspired a new generation of collectors.

In 1972 he published *Qajar Paintings*, a pioneer account of 18th and 19th-century Persian portraits based on the collection of Julian Amery, which had been sold in its entirety to the Empress of Iran. He left Sotheby's in 1974 (although remaining a consultant to embark with Mildred Archer on the huge task of cataloguing the collection of Indian miniatures in the India Office. Their thorough and detailed research resulted in *Indian Miniatures in the India Office Library* (1981), a valuable and much welcomed reference work for both academics and collectors.

These books established

Toby Falk as a major scholar, and his reputation was reinforced by several publications, most notably the Colnaghi catalogue of important Persian and Mogul art during the Festival of Islam in 1976. He was also editor of *Treasures of Islam* (1985). His rare and unique quality of

being able to advise institutions, galleries and private collectors alike, and his knowledge, integrity and discretion, won him worldwide respect.

In 1989, again with Mildred Archer, he published *India Revealed*, an account of the papers and collection of James and William Fraser, two Scotsmen in India at the

beginning of the 19th century. The Fraser collection included superb Indian watercolours executed for the brothers, a unique group of "Company School" pictures, a term given to work by Indian artists in a Western style, commissioned by their British patrons. The publication of the Fraser collection some seven years ago placed Company School art firmly on the map of oriental painting.

Toby Falk's love of botany was evident from an early age (he won a prize at prep school for a collection of wild flowers) and stayed with him all his life. His concern for the environment later years was another expression of this love, and oriental paintings of flowers and birds gave him much pleasure, as indicated in *Birds in an Indian Garden* (1984), written with his wife. However, his interests were not confined to oriental art: he was also knowledgeable on antique glass, and in the Sixties when he lived close to Portobello Road he started a wonderful collection of china and pottery jugs.

He is survived by his wife

Gael, who made valuable contributions to his research, particularly to *India Revealed*, and their daughter.

Many of the household staff came from the Mull estate and at the age of seven Toby spoke Gaelic as well as English. He was also fluent in Lowland Scots, the old language of the Scottish court. He regretted its loss: traces of it survive today only in rural areas and in the slippish urban demotic.

He was educated at Fettes, the

Department of Agriculture. When a tenant farmer at Crookston died he took over a farm of 18,000 acres. After ten years of hard work, largely in stock farming, he was able to clear his debts and concentrate on reclaiming the title.

He commissioned genealogical research which took advantage of Vatican records and improved the indexing of Scottish public documents. In a 1986 judgment the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Malcolm Innes of Edington, found that he was the 23rd Earl, not the 24th as Borthwick had believed and the 17th direct male descendant of the 1st Lord Borthwick. The judgment ex-

plained that the Mull estate and took a diploma in agriculture at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne. During the war he served in the Royal Artillery and worked on air defences for London, Birmingham and the Clyde. He went over to Normandy with the invasion force in 1944 (he was Scottish patron of the Normandy Veterans Association from 1985 until his death) and, after the defeat of Germany, was in charge of food supplies for North Rhine-Westphalia. He spent five years as governor, adviser and then liaison officer at Münster until 1950.

For two years he worked as a livestock inspector with the

tinguished superior "stirpes" (pedigrees) and found that the existence of a 2nd Lord Borthwick had been inferred from forged land deeds.

The process of research and litigation strengthened his interest in Scottish history. He helped to revive the moribund Convention of the Scottish Baronage, a relic of pre-Union Scotland. The Scottish feudal barons — whose titles came with the land they owned — attended the Scottish Parliament until its dissolution in 1707 but, after the 1745 rising, their heritable powers of local jurisdiction were removed by an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament. But they retained ceremonial duties and Borthwick was Hereditary Falconer of Scotland to the Queen.

His other passion was the

military and hospitalier Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, the oldest such chivalrous order in Europe. It survives as a charitable organisation, and a Grand Bailiwick was founded in Scotland in 1935. Borthwick helped to revive it after the war, and it raised money to run hospitals in the Third World. A schism developed between two tendencies — those with allegiance to the order's French roots and those who asserted a Spanish Bourbon lineage. Borthwick worked strenuously to achieve a reconciliation.

In the House of Lords he

served on various committees and was a regular listener to debates. He also served as a

councillor on the old Midlothian County Council and on numerous committees involved with rating, agriculture, landowning and forestry.

He was a member of the Standing Council of Scottish (clan) Chiefs.

His wife Margaret Frances,

died in 1976. He is survived by

two twin sons. His heir is John Hugh Borthwick, Master of Borthwick.

ON THIS DAY

January 13, 1879

Despite moving at a speed of ten miles an hour, traffic presented problems and irritation in the streets of the metropolis during the last century, even if pollution was not among them.

a simple impossibility. Farriers do not keep more hands than are requisite for ordinary work, and it is absurd, therefore, to expect that they have the means for roughing at a moment's notice one hundredth part of the horses required for daily public service. Mr Fleming's plan of frost pegs is good enough for private or army purposes, but those who have to deal with the common traffic of London know how impossible it is to apply such means.

As, then, it is not possible to make

roads fit to travel on slippery roads, why is not attention paid to making the roads safe for ordinary shoes? This can be done in a few minutes. It is done in many of the London parishes by the simple application of a small quantity of salt on the crown of the road.

It is said by the authorities who object to salt that it damages the macadam roads, and that it makes cold water, which is dangerous to health. Both objections are open to dispute, but, admitting them to be true, there remain the questions whether the convenience of free circulation of traffic is not worth some possible cost in repairing of roads, and whether there are not more people who catch cold from being compelled to walk through the snow for want of conveyances than there are persons with thin shoes who get their feet wet in the imaginary salt snow water.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A.G. Church,

General Manager and Secretary,

The London General Omnibus Company (Limited)

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Mark Abrey, Assistant Curate, West Derby St Mary: to be Priest-in-charge, Anfield St Margaret, and Chaplain, Alder Hey Children's Hospital (Liverpool). Canon Bernard Baker, Curate-in-charge, Ryde St James Proprietary Chapel (Portsmouth): to be on the staff at the Amari Christian Training Centre (Crosslinks) in Kuanya, Jamaica.

The Rev Dr William Brierley, Assistant Curate, Amersham w Coleshill: to be Team Vicar (designate) in the Wheatley Team Ministry (Oxford). The Rev Derek Carrivick, Rector, Baxters w Hurley and Wood End and Merevale w Bentley and Diocesan Ecumenical Officer: to be also Rural Dean of Polesworth, and ceasing as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Birmingham).

The Rev David Chamberlin, Assistant Curate, Chatham SS Philip and James (Rochester): to be Vicar, Swardston w

East Carleton, Intwood, Keswick and Kettering (Norwich).

The Rev Nils Chittenden, Assistant Curate, Benfieldside: to be Industrial and Urban Regeneration Chaplain in Gateshead with the Northumbrian Industrial Mission (Durham).

The Rev Trevor Davies, Assistant Curate (NSM), Waverton: is also Honorary Assistant Chaplain, Countess of Chester Hospital (Chester).

The Rev Linda Denness, Assistant Curate (NSM), Portsea St Mary: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Portsmouth Rural Dean (Portsmouth).

The Rev Kerry Emmett, Rector, Ravenstone and Swinington: to be also Rural Dean, and ceasing as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Birmingham).

The Rev David Felix, Vicar, Grange: to be also Priest-in-charge, Runcorn Holy Trinity (Chester).

The Rev James Florence, Rector, Orsett and Bulphan and Horndon on the Hill (Chelmsford): to be Priest-in-charge, Liscard St Mary (Chester).

The Rev James Hair, Assistant Curate, Portchester St Mary: to be Assistant Curate in the Fareham Rural Deanship with special responsibility for Portchester St Mary and Warsash St Mary (Portsmouth).

Canon Kenneth Harris, retired: has been Priest-in-charge (NSM), Ashton Hayes since December 1, 1996 (Chester).

The Rev Jacque Jones, Chaplain, Chelmsford Cathedral (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, Bridgeman St Matthew (Portsmouth).

The Rev Peter Kelly, Vicar, Eastney St Margaret: to be Priest-in-charge, Swanmore St Barnabas (Portsmouth).

The Rev Sharon Kyle, formerly Assistant Curate, Edinburgh St James (Edinburgh): has been Assistant Curate, Neston since November 1, 1996 (Chester).

The Rev David Meakin, Precentor, Sacrist and Minor Canon, Durham Cathedral: to be Vicar, Ryhope (Durham).

FURIOUS DRIVING

To the Editor of The Times</

NEWS

Blair plans new deal for schools

■ Tony Blair yesterday launched a personal crusade to transform standards in Britain's schools as he declared that his first priority for an incoming Labour government would be a far-reaching Education Bill.

It would include plans to reduce class sizes, improve literacy in primary schools, set targets for homework, replace poor head teachers and take over bad schools. Page 1

Wife of Royal guard murdered

■ Patricia Coulton, 52, the wife of a Royal Protection Group police constable, was found stabbed to death in the grounds of Lynwood Nursing Home in Sunningdale, Berkshire. Until recently her husband, Michael, regularly patrolled Buckingham Palace. He is also believed to have been one of the team responsible for security at the Duke of York's house. Page 1

Labour reforms

The Labour Party is drawing up sweeping reforms to reduce the power of its ruling body, the National Executive Committee, and to transform its annual party conference. Page 2

School sex suit

One of Britain's oldest schools is considering suing two parents who made claims of sexual impropriety against senior teachers. Police cleared the two male teachers last week. Page 3

\$6 m businessman

A businessman who left school without any O-Levels has become a multi-millionaire at the age of 33 after selling his computer company, Tim Roots, who claims to be computer illiterate, made \$6 million (£3.5 million) from the deal. Page 3

IRA attack

The IRA was accused of endangering the lives of an entire community in County Fermanagh after terrorists fired two mortar bombs at a police station. Page 4

Branson diary

Richard Branson's diary of his failed attempt to circumnavigate the globe is published exclusively. Page 5

Years drag on

Proof that smoking makes people look older has been found by scientists studying the skin of identical twins. Page 6

Humpback sets whale of a record

■ The fastest whale in the world may be a humpback known only as 339, which has astonished scientists by making a record-breaking migration from Alaska to the Hawaiian islands. Normally, whales take an average of 102 days to make the 2,775-mile trip. But 339 made the journey in 39 days — slashing the average time by 63 days. Page 6



Bertrand Piccard and Wim Verstraeten take off from an Alpine meadow yesterday in an attempt to become the first balloonists to go round the world. The journey ended six hours later when leaking fumes forced them to ditch in the Mediterranean. Page 1

BUSINESS

Restaurant bid: National Express, the bus company, has been short-listed as one of five possible buyers of Welcome Break, Granada's roadside restaurants arm. Page 44

Shoe threat: Liam Strong, the chief executive of Saxon, aims to dispose of the British Shoe Corporation unless it improves its dismal performance. Page 44

Ford meeting: Union leaders at Ford's Halewood car plant will meet management as speculation mounts over the future of the factory. Page 44

Bank payout: A subsidiary of Union Bank of Switzerland is to offer compensation to 90 investors who claim to have lost \$2.7 million in foreign exchange deals in Jersey. Page 41

Office life: Mariella Frostrup moves into her own office. Page 13

FEATURES

Brighter future: With demand for graduates outstripping supply, university is the path to a good career. But should students choose arts or science, asks Anjana Ahuja. Page 12

Right choice: In the end, it was the symbolism of my 30th birthday and the fear that further delay would deprive me of a decent run at a second career that settled it. Tim Hames changes career. Page 12

Private thoughts: Hiding from the Nazis, Anne Frank and Peter van Daan discovered the first stirrings of adolescent love. Extracts from her diary, suppressed until now because of their sometimes painful candour. Pages 14, 15

Invisible star: The story of Marni Nixon, the woman who sang for Audrey Hepburn and Deborah Kerr in their most famous film roles, is told in a new one-woman play, *Showstopper*. Page 17

Melvyn Bragg: "I am convinced that ITV's debate on the monarchy could be regarded as a landmark in television." Page 16

Swan watch: Tchaikovsky's great ballet *Swan Lake* is never far from the Covent Garden repertoire, a useful touchstone for assessing the performing health of the Royal Ballet. Page 16

New look: The Bush Theatre in west London is back in business after a six-month refurbishment, with a new play by Richard Cawren, *All Of You Mine*. Page 17

Football: Another spectacular goal by David Beckham earned Manchester United a 2-1 win at Tottenham Hotspur, pushing them into second place in the FA Premiership. Page 23

Boxing: Scott Welch's inability to mount a credible challenge to Henry Akinwande hampered the Briton's attempt to establish world-title credentials. Page 24

Cricket: Michael Atherton, the England captain, has talked at length to Michael Henderson about the trials and tribulations that have beset his term of office. Page 25

Rugby union: Defeats for Leicester and Bath, who have monopolised the Courage Clubs Championship in recent seasons, gave further incentive to the league's dark horses. Page 30

Tennis: David Miller believes the rapid development of Tim Henman means that it is now a matter of when, not if, the young Briton will win his first grand-slam title. Page 32

Schools sport: Howard Wilkinson, the FA's new technical director, will have to bridge a chasm between schools and football authorities if the game is to improve. Page 18

Preview: A new science fiction series is set in the 1960s. *Dark Skies: The Awakening* (Channel 4; 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond wishes Shirley Bassey was 50 every Saturday night. Page 43

New year, new career

As our series starting today shows, the conventional linear career is becoming as dated as a bowler hat. Page 19

Athens and Ankara

Neither Turkey's European nor American partners have formulated a coherent strategy to rekindle their links with Ankara. The Eastern Question has returned in all its complexity and danger. Page 19

Going underground

If the Government is to deserve re-election it must show it has not run out of steam — privatising the Underground would be evidence of a commitment to its traditional enterprise ideals and proof of continuing vitality. Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

By comparative European figures, health provision needs another 1 per cent of gross domestic product to be restored to viability. That is £6.5 billion. This is where the Labour equation comes unstuck. There is a worldwide public reluctance to pay higher taxes. So if Britain wants to bring health provision up to the European standard, it is the private sector that needs to be expanded. Page 18

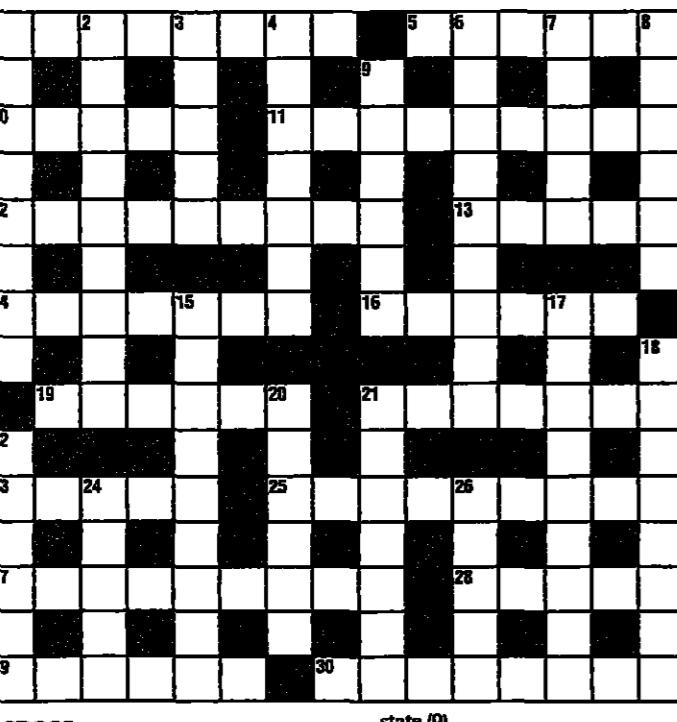
MATTHEW PARRIS

That the average Briton has 2.4 children, when no Briton actually has 2.4 children points us to a profound error in the fashion for constructing our supposed country from the results of polls. It is perfectly possible to paint, from data about the opinion and practice of the many, a picture of a "typical" citizen with which no living creature actually accords. I think this is what the mass media do. Page 18

Elspeth Huxley, writer; Jill Summers, *Coronation Street* actress; Toby Falck, art historian; the Earl of Borthwick, farmer. Page 21

Teacher pension funds; keeping treasure trove; Kerguelen Islands; adoption; hedgerow rules. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,375



ACROSS

1 Skill shown by Constable initially, painting light vehicle (8).
 5 A couple of points covered by the present dissertation (6).
 10 Girl recognized as musical right away (5).
 11 Boy seized in atrocity out East? It's not unusual (9).
 12 Pass idly during absence on holiday (5,4).
 13 A wife like Queen Wilhelmina (5).
 14 Money from fund Lee misused (7).
 16 In three choruses, repeat sound twice? (2-4).
 19 Moneylender quietly abandoned by one seizing power (6).
 21 Book to keep for oneself (7).
 23 Bandy words in a Parisian street about midnight (5).
 25 It's taken away — this is the logical conclusion (9).
 27 Nominates new assembly for

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,374 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather: All regions 0236 401 510

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Channel crossing 0236 401 580

Moving to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0236 407 505

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UK Weather by fax number from your fax 0236 401 510

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TODAY

IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

POP GOES A TRADITION
Sport for All PAGE 36

RUNNING WILD
Schools cross-country in Knole Park PAGE 33

BEST OF TRIES
Blanco charges towards greatness PAGE 31

LIFTING THE MASK
Michael Atherton on England, captaincy and life PAGE 25

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 13 1997

UNITED'S CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE

Beckham serves second helping

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Manchester United 2

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

DOES anyone possess the deep desire, the quality and the belief to win the 1996-97 FA Carling Premiership title? Manchester United do. Having laid in wait on a Saturday on which all their main competitors either drew or lost, they overcame a genuinely spirited Tottenham Hotspur challenge at White Hart Lane yesterday. With a cool finish from Solskjær, then another breathtaking 25-yard shot from Beckham, they made up for all their deficiencies by securing victory. The crossbar that denied the London club twice in 30 seconds appeared to have conspired with United.

"We have stumbled, to second best, you know?" Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "Once in a perfect position, there are hard days to come, and all the more contention will be caused by each other's thorns. Sir Alex Ferguson failed to tempt David Beckham with a bid to sign him from Helsingborg, this summer; the attempt is finished, but not so United who, now unbeaten for ten games and victorious in five of the last six, have overhauled everyone.

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bar Liverpool, behind whom United stand just two points adrift and with a precious game in hand.

The implications are alarming for the championship. United, yesterday as before playing people out of position because of wear-and-tear injuries, pushing May through yet another week because a surgeon, had flu and his hernia operation was postponed, are overhauling pretenders to their throne while not playing to their best. Furthermore, they have been almost blatant in their admission that Europe is the No 1 priority this season, a priority that Ferguson could not forget even last night.

Yet what of Tottenham? Wounded in all departments, the bottom dropping out of their season, they bloodied another foreigner, the Swiss centre back, Ramon Vega. While he lasted, Vega showed touches of intelligence, rose majestically to create the Tottenham goal, but became erratic as the frenzy of English football consumed him. Yet Gerry Francis, beaten for the third time this season by United, has restored in the past week his reputation as a tactician. At Old Trafford in the third round of the FA Cup the previous Sunday, he had seven first-team men missing and played cat and mouse. For an hour he almost brought it off. Yesterday, changing the tactics – as did Ferguson, who opted for three central defenders to try to ease Pallister into his first game of the year – Tottenham used players



Beckham celebrates after scoring his spectacular winning goal for Manchester United against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

such as Wilson and Sinton in alien roles, and both responded to their manager with effective performances.

And how explosively the young Norwegian, Iversen, attempted to make an impression on the game. Tall, blond and athletic, he will shoot from any angle, any distance. Sometimes it is greedy, but just as often it looks like justified optimism. His was the first attempt on goal, eluding Johnson, spotting Schmeichel off his line, producing a looping dipping volley, perhaps a foot over the crossbar.

Then, in the nineteenth minute, he repeated the dynamism. This time it was Pallister he foisted, and this time, the dipping shot came wickedly down off the underside of the bar. Even then, Sinton collected the rebound, swept past May, fired towards goal ... and Schmeichel's charm worked a second time, the ball coming back into play off virtually the same spot on the bar.

With such luck, you could almost predict the riposte. In the 23rd minute, United broke the length of the field. Keane was twice involved; Scholes and Cantona then moved the ball a pace quicker than thought, and when Cantona's superb touch divided Carr and Campbell, Solskjær was running in anticipation. He kept his eye on the ball, he kept his nerve, he ignored the onrushing Vega trying to make a last tackle, and he gave Walker no chance with a crisply struck, low shot from an acute angle.

Within a minute, Giggs had wasted an invitation from Solskjær to score from an easier position. Tottenham took time to rediscover authority and appetite, but equalised just before half-time. It was a simple goal, sweetly concluded. Sinton took a corner on the right, Vega produced his powerful leap to head down and, on the bounce, young Rory Allen stooped to flick the ball past Schmeichel. It was the first goal United had conceded in six games.

After the interval, passion was mis-spent, with wild tackles bringing seven yellow cards, the worst of them, as usual, being from Keane. His manager's praise seems to go to his head, and in this instant his boot went to the head of Carr.

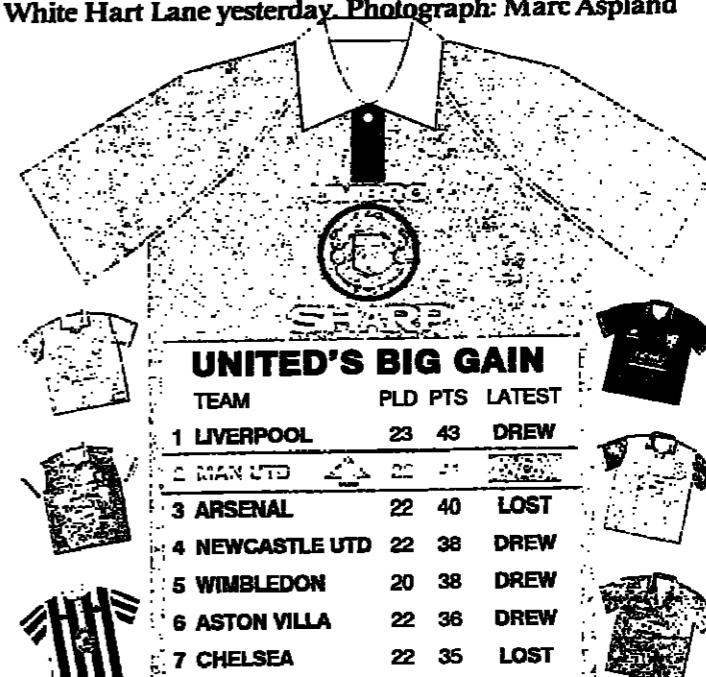
But there were miscreants on both sides and even Cantona in one of his more detached moods became fired up. Thank goodness, therefore, that there was only admiration for the winning stroke. Both teams had rearranged themselves from continental formations to the British 4-4-2 when Poborsky, one of the substitutes, advanced rapidly to turn defence into attack. When he found Beckham, lurking 25 yards out, one could sense the outcome. For here is a young Londoner with the finish of Bobby Charlton in his soul. Twenty-five yards is no distance to him, but whereas a week ago he destroyed the England prospects of

Walker with a cushioned shot from the instep of his right boot, this time he induced a swerve with the outside of the same foot, making the ball rise and then veer dramatically beyond the goalkeeper.

Ferguson was leaping out of his dug-out, a manager of 22 seasons enthused like a boy at the magician's ability of Beckham. Somewhere in the home crowd, the grandfather of David Beckham, a Tottenham Hotspur season ticket holder, went through mixed emotions. Here was his boy, drawing boos from the home crowd, because he had forsaken his north

London heritage and chosen to score goals like this for the team from up north.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-1-1): P Schmeichel; D May, R Johnson (sub: C Casper, 78), G Pallister – G Neville, D Beckham, R Keane, P Wilson, J Edinburgh – A Sinton – R Allen, S Wilson, S Scholes (sub: K Poborsky, 69), R Giggs; Cantona – O G Söderlund (sub: A Cole, 68). Referee: M Boddam.



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BBC's tennis service cloaked in intrigue

When Tim Henman made it to the semi-finals of the ATP Grand Slam Cup shortly before Christmas there were rumblings of discontent at Eurosport, the pan-European satellite channel. Not fair, they moaned, the Grand Slam was on Sky, which shows only a handful of tennis tournaments a year. We, on the other hand, show every event on the ATP Tour. When was he going to come good for us?

Very soon was the answer, with Henman making it to the final of the Qatar Open before losing to Jim Courier and then threatening to do even better in Sydney. Saturday, then, was supposed to be pay-back time, the big reward for all those hours of hard work that Simon Reed and Co put in commenting on tournaments that most of us have never heard of. Here it was, the final of the Sydney International, "live and exclusive".

Actually, it was neither. Not live was understandable. Even if the channel had been able to negotiate a bit of after-hours satellite time, the time difference would still have ensured that the audience for live coverage of Henman versus Moya was tiny. Delayed coverage was fine. After all, under Eurosport's comprehensive agreement with the ATP Tour, it was still exclusive, wasn't it?

No, it wasn't — not any more. The BBC, displaying considerable enterprise, somehow negotiated a last-minute deal that allowed it to show both the semi-final against Ivanisevic in *Sport on Friday* and the final in *Grandstand* — before Eurosport had a chance to show either game. Once Barry Davies and Bill Threlfall had done their stuff for the BBC, it was hardly worth Reed and Frew McMillan turning up.

The details of the deal are difficult to track down but, under the satellite channel's contract with the ATP Tour, Eurosport is obliged to sublet the rights to terrestrial broadcasters in "appropriate circumstances". Quite what circumstances would be considered appropriate for the



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

satellite channel to give away this weekend's crown jewel, however, is anybody's guess. But for those who hold the future of the non-subscription channel dear, let us hope they included a large cheque.

This may yet prove to be little more than opportunist one-off by the BBC but there are signs — worrying for Eurosport but encouraging for those without satellite dishes — that it may not be. Consider the Australian Open, a tournament which in recent years the

satellite channel has been able to make its own.

This week its coverage begins in traditional style, with the last two hours of play being shown live here between 10am and noon, followed by up to six hours of delayed coverage of the earlier events.

This week, however, the BBC's coverage of the tournament also begins with round one. Whether Henman plays today or tomorrow, a special highlights programme is to be parochuted into the appropriate evening schedule to chart how our man gets on against Andre Pavel. Whatever the result, the BBC promises this will be followed by updates on *Sportsnight* on Wednesday, *Sport on Friday* and *Grandstand*, before a regular highlights programme gets underway in week two. It concludes

with live coverage of both semi-finals and final. Yes, it's set-the-alarm-clock time again.

Given that the BBC's coverage in recent years has begun and ended with the finals, the corporation seems determined to make the most of television rights acquired through membership of the European Broadcasting Union.

Commentary will be by remote control, with Reed and McMillan, commentating off monitors in Eurosport's Paris headquarters and Davies and Threlfall doing the same for the BBC in London. For Davies it could prove a busy time, with the tennis coinciding with the European figure skating championships and the fourth round of the FA Cup. Personally, I'm backing Henman to win all three.

Woods and Lehman in final confrontation

TIGER WOODS, the rookie of the year on the US PGA Tour last year, set up a final-round battle with Tom Lehman, the player of the year, at the Mercedes championship which begins the season in Carlsbad, California. Woods picked up seven under-par 65 to move into joint first place with Lehman, who had led after the first two rounds. Nick Faldo ended the third round 12 shots off the lead after a 71.

Woods, who began the third round trailing Lehman by four strokes, birdied the final four holes to reach a 14-under-par total of 202 along with the British Open champion. Lehman, who scored a third-round 69, the pair stood five strokes clear of fellow American Guy Boros, who shot a 70 to finish at nine-under.

Arnold Palmer has withdrawn from competitive sport to undergo treatment for prostate cancer. Mr Palmer, 67, was optimistic that he could be cured but said that he would retire temporarily "until this thing is taken care of".

Clarke reclaims crown

CYCLING: Barrie Clarke confirmed his top ranking among Britain's cyclo-cross riders yesterday when he regained the national open title. Today he can expect an added bonus with the announcement that he will lead the Great Britain world championship squad in Munich on February 2.

Clarke, the Raleigh team leader, won by eight seconds from Steve Knight, who finished eighth on the same Sutton Coldfield circuit a year ago. Clarke's partner, Caroline Alexander, won the women's title for the fourth time.

Photograph, page 34

Fourth win for Wiberg

SKIING: Pernilla Wiberg emerged from a chaotic weekend in Austria closer to her first overall World Cup title. After bad weather had prevented the downhill race at Bad Kleinkirchheim on Friday, Wiberg finished fifth in the downhill on Saturday, won by Heidi Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, before winning the super giant slalom yesterday. It was the Swede's fourth World Cup victory this season. While his rivals struggled, Thomas Sykora, of Austria, mastered conditions at Chamonix to win the men's slalom by an impressive 1.66 seconds.

Fears grow for skipper

SAILING: Hopes were dwindling last night for the Canadian Vendée Globe skipper, Jerry Roule, who has not been heard of for a week after he encountered 70-knot winds and heavy seas 2,600 miles west of Chile. Yesterday Marc Thiercelin, the French skipper, who was one place behind Roule in third position, gave up his search for his friend.

Bullimore's tonic, page 33

Close call for champions

BOWLS: The Australians, Kelvin Kerrow and Ian Schuback, using the Woodsides International Masters pairs tournament at Co Antrim to prepare for the defence of their pairs indoor title at Preston next week, stretched the 1994 world indoor champions, Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, from Kent, before losing 5-7, 7-6, 7-3. The Australian pair had won their previous two matches.

Saive sweeps to title

TABLE TENNIS: The Belgian champion, Jon-Michel Saive, won the English Open championship at Kettering last night after overwhelming Peter Kordel, of the Czech Republic, 21-10, 21-15, 21-19 in the final. In the women's final, Tong Feiming of Taipei, who spent 1995 playing in England but is now based in Germany, defeated the top seed, Chi Po Wa, of Hong Kong, 21-10, 23-21, 21-10.

Steelers come through

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils and Sheffield Steelers continue to dominate the Superleague and both won on Saturday. The Steelers recovered from their midweek reverse in Wales with a 4-3 overtime win over Basingstoke Bison. The Devils travelled to Scotland and beat Ayr Scottish Eagles 7-4, with Vezio Sacatini scoring three times. Nottingham Panthers beat Bracknell Bees 6-5.

HOCKEY

Second-half goal spree by St Albans

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ST ALBANS pulled themselves out of a tight corner at East Grinstead yesterday to beat Reading 8-5 and qualify for finals night of the National Indoor Club championship at Crystal Palace on February 7.

Drawing heavily on their experience, St Albans scored six goals in the second half, having been 4-2 down at half-time. Reading took a 2-0 lead through Ocroff and although St Albans levelled the scores through Halliday and Ashdown, Wyatt, from a penalty stroke, restored Reading's advantage. St Albans fought a second half and sealed the victory with two late goals by Jennings and one by Wyatt. If Reading had won they would have qualified.

Earlier in the day, St Albans had captured much of the

glory in a 6-6 draw with Old Loughtonians, who led 5-3 at

the interval and increased

their advantage with another

goal by Ralph early in the

second half, from a penalty

stroke. Halliday and Jennings

inspired the recovery of St

Albans.

East Grinstead, who won all

their matches, finished top

of this pool with Old

Loughtonians second and St

Albans' third. From the other

pool, Perdiswell, Worcester,

Harborne, Cannock and Don-

caster qualified. Doncaster

who finished with the same

points tally as Hull, survived

the Olympic wheel starts turning, though, it may be difficult to stop.

Luton, having staged this

71-year-old event for four

successive years and having

secured the 1998 World Uni-

versity championships, wants

to stage the annual Bupa

County Durham meeting,

which attracts world and

European champions.

Hearing that County Dur-

BASKETBALL

Royals kick their long losing habit

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE celebrations were unrestrained. Hemel and Watford Royals had just beaten Caversham and Crystal Palace 86-83 and for a team that had not savoured the sweetness of victory since March 30, 1996, it was a Saturday night to remember.

The club had lost its last three Budweiser League games last season, all 16 league fixtures this season, and six group matches in the Top 10 Trophy. Never mind that the team they beat was the one immediately above them.

That mattered little to the supporters who cheered each home player as he arrived in the bar afterwards; as well as the club's beleaguered owner and coach, Vince Macaulay-Razia, who had told his squad recently: "Start playing for me, or I'll bring in players who will."

Sam Stiller, once a prolific scorer at Bracknell and Kingstone, had returned from Israel to be added to the roster but the decisive contributions came from the regular starters, led by Derek Vogel. The oft-American forward collected 34 points.

Palace, confined in their own defeat, 19 attempts from the free-throw line, they were successful with only four.

"Palace were awful from the line, but it was not as if they gave us the game," Macaulay-

Razia said. "We still had to

win."

Londoners and Chester

jet, the joint leaders, both

were away. Powers by three

points at Derby and Chester

by five at Birmingham.

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Results and table, page 34

RUGBY LEAGUE

Goulding inspires St Helens to victory

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ST HELENS, the Super League champions, won the first Norweb Challenge Trophy thanks to an inspired second-half display against Wigan at Knowstrey Road yesterday. Trailing 32-22 from the first leg on Boxing Day, it took Saints until four minutes before the break to draw level on aggregate with the first of Karle Hammond's two tries.

Wigan fielded an inexperienced team without nine internationals. They duly ran out of steam and Saints added five tries in the second half for a 66-44 victory overall.

Bobbie Goulding was at the centre of most of his side's attacks. The St Helens captain scored a try and kicked six goals. Apollo Perolini, Vila Matautia and Alan Hunt scored other tries.

Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, said: "It was a vastly-improved display from Boxing Day and certainly the return of players like Bobbie Goulding, Keiron Cunningham and Tommy Martyn proved crucial. I was impressed with our defensive efforts, conceding only two tries."

Fears that Wigan would be forced to sell Vaiga Tuigamala, who has been playing rugby union for Wasps, have receded with the sale of their ground, Central Park, to David Whelan, the Wigan Athletic Football Club chairman, for £4 million. The deal has cleared the club's debts and Tuigamala, 27, is back in training. Central Park is now to be redeveloped at a cost of £11 million.

Wasps' loss, page 30

BOXING

Big fight flop does little for Akinwande

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HENRY AKINWANDE came no nearer winning a place in British hearts despite successfully defending his World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title against Scott Welch, of Brighton, in Nashville, Tennessee on Saturday.

It was not that Akinwande boxed badly — technically he was impressive and looked very much a leading contender for the undisputed world championship — it was simply because Welch put up a very poor performance, thereby pulling down the contest. Also it was disappointing that Akinwande was not able to knock out the challenger, despite punching him all round the ring for 12 rounds.

I watched the bout in a pub in Hackney that shows important sporting events but the regulars were only there for the beer or pool. They showed no interest in what was going on in the big screen. No doubt, once they saw the man with the Union Jack on his trunks unable to get past the 6ft 7in champion's left hand and getting his ears boxed off, they lost interest.

Welch, who threatened much before the contest, produced precious little when the bell went. He was out of his depth and up to his eyes in trouble once Akinwande started putting his punches together. The Brighton man was only able to land four



Welch ducks and covers up as Akinwande goes on the attack in Nashville

but no doubt Lewis will do that when they meet later this year. Maloney expects Akinwande to be at least 20 per cent better for that fight.

On the undercard, the forecast of Kevin Lueshing of "it will be me or him" for his bout with Felix Trinidad, the Inter-

national Boxing Federation welterweight champion, proved to be right. Lueshing was stopped in the third round. It was an explosive affair after a cautious first round by both men.

Lueshing floored the champion in the second round but

was unable to finish the job. It was in the next round that the champion finished off the Beckenham man.

Warren said of Lueshing: "With more experience under his belt, he could have another world title chance. He showed real heart."

Frank Maloney, the manager of Lennox Lewis, who will meet Akinwande next month in Las Vegas, said: "It was the poorest world heavyweight championship I have seen. Akinwande could not even knock him out. That is what is expected of big guys at this level. Didn't you hear his trainer [Don Turner] telling him in the last round 'I want you to knock him out'." Lennox, Holyfield, Tyson and Golota would have knocked him out inside five rounds."

Maloney admitted that Akinwande cannot be taken lightly. Akinwande looked a greatly-improved boxer. At 6ft 8in he has gained the shoulders to throw hurtful punches. It is a pity that his chin was not tested by Welch.

He no longer has the reflexes that made him the finest boxer in the country four years ago. He cannot avoid punches nor retaliate with those quick combinations. Had it been the McMillan of yesteryear, before he wracked his left shoulder defending his WBO title against Ruben Palacio, Ingle would not have laid a glove on him.

On Saturday, at York Hall, Ingle, six years younger at 24, had no trouble finding McMillan, whose eyebrows and cheek were badly gashed by the fourth round. Covered in blood, the old warrior fought back, before going down under a barrage of hooks and uppercuts in the eighth round.

Frank Maloney, Ingle's

manager, said he believed Ingle would be ready to challenge for Naseem Hamed's title in 18 months' time.

Wayne McCullough, of Northern Ireland, suffered his first defeat when he was beaten on points by Daniel Zaragoza, the WBC super-bantamweight champion, in Boston. The 39

Atherton reveals that his term in office is unlikely to extend beyond the Ashes

Leader who has leaving on his mind

Michael Atherton has known some trying times in his four years as England captain but the past two months have been as testing as any. When he went to Zimbabwe in November his back was so bad he could not touch his toes. When he left Africa last week those toes were not touching the ground. He had been tried and convicted in a media courtroom, and had a noose fitted round his neck.

Perhaps it is gallows humour that makes him seem so chirpy. Whatever, Atherton cuts a composed figure as England begin their tour of New Zealand with a four-day match in Palmerston North today. This is an important year for him. He has a benefit season at Lancashire and a book purporting to tell his life story, to which he realises he should have withheld his assent, is due out in the summer.

Then there is the little matter of the Ashes. Atherton would like to lead England against Australia; whether he is invited depends to a large extent on how well the team performs in New Zealand. If England play poorly, nobody will need to tell him to stand down. Already he is thinking of a career beyond cricket, not necessarily within the game. He will not be short of offers because he is an intelligent, well-rounded man whose gifts are apparent to those who observe him close-up.

Before there are

still some things he wants to achieve as a player.

The best thing one can say about Atherton is that, although cricket means a lot to him, it has never been more than a game. He has a sense of proportion denied to some of his critics, and can only laugh at the spectacle of a national newspaper (the one that demanded he be knighted 14 months ago) calling for his head on a silver platter.

I know Atherton well. He looks happier than for some time, in the knowledge that his term in office is drawing to a close. I hope he can take his leave as he chooses, but I am pleased he is going soon. It means we can all get down to the delightful business of rippling somebody else's head off.

MH: Despite the wretched tour of Zimbabwe, and the criticism heaped upon him, you appear in good fettle.

MA: I am. I have not enjoyed the way things have gone on the field, but away from the cricket I am enjoying myself, as always.

MH: Touring is hard enough work when you're winning. How do you cope when the team is losing?

MA: I enjoy touring, full stop. Always have done. You enjoy the company of your team-mates and the challenge of the cricket, which takes a large part of your time, and you don't take everything so seriously. There is a danger of getting wrapped up in yourself but I try to keep a sense of proportion and a clear per-

The captain's lot is not all misery, as he tells Michael Henderson

pective. Failure is never fatal. Success is not final. There's a cliché for you!

MH: There have been some rude things written and said about this team and this tour. Does that hurt?

MA: The coverage has been a bit abusive, but, being away from home, we don't see a great deal of it. We tend to hear second-hand about the bad pieces. Somebody will say "so-and-so has written such-and-such" but, by and large, the day-to-day stuff is hidden from us, and a good job too. It is so much easier if you don't read the papers. If you do it becomes more difficult to

erable, which I think is far from the truth. But once you have that image it is hard to lose. That's life.

MH: In Zimbabwe the England team was perceived as detached, to the point of being rude. Do the players lack curiosity about the places they visit?

MA: The first part of that is nonsense. We had one day off in Zimbabwe, when everybody went to Victoria Falls except those who had already been there, and we had a five-hour journey to Harare. It would have been nice to get about more, to see places, but the itinerary didn't allow us any spare time. It simply wasn't possible. As for rude behaviour, people jumped on the bandwagon after the first week. There was a private party at the British High Commissioner's residence at 5.30pm on our first day in Harare, a day when we had fitted in two training sessions. I don't think you can expect people to be the life and soul of the party in those circumstances. The journalists had been invited to a private function and should not have been looking for a story. I don't think we were rude to the locals. I'm not sure there was a massive amount of hospitality offered to us in any case.

A team is made up of different characters. If the likes of Crawley and Mullally enjoy spending an evening in their room playing their guitars then some people might frown, but players relax in their own ways, and it is not for me as captain to tell them otherwise.

MH: Being England captain is almost a thankless task. Can anybody be groomed adequately for it?

MA: What the new board might do, if they identify somebody early enough and realise that he could become England captain, is help him with regard to media work and how to deal with the demands of the job. A management course might be helpful, too. Some people might not get anything out of it, but, there again, others might.

MH: You're a private person in a very public job. How do you handle so much scrutiny, and mockery?

MA: You come to terms with it. As captain, it goes with the territory. I have never been good at using the press as an image-making machine for myself. I know I have this image as somebody who is grumpy, and down, and mis-

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FOOTBALL: MANAGERLESS NEWCASTLE THROW AWAY TWO-GOAL LEAD IN TYPICAL CAVALIER STYLE

Keegan gone but melody lingers on

Aston Villa 2
 Newcastle 2

By ROB HUGHES
 FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SPORTING life would be as grey as the West Midlands weather on Saturday if one could erase a man's style, his spirit, his errors the moment he turns his back.

There was, therefore, something reassuring about the performance of Newcastle United at Villa Park. Like magpies, they stole into a two-goal lead, they surrendered it, they could have lost a penalty, and they ended up flying forward in pursuit of victory.

King Kevin has gone, but the melody lingers on. Whether or not the Newcastle chairman, Sir John Hall, through purse and persuasion, can tonight change the mind of Bobby Robson, talk him into renegeing on his promise to stay at Barcelona, the truth remains that Keegan's legacy is a flawed one. It has, despite the injuries to Ginola, Asprilla and Ferdinand, an imbalance, a preference from Keegan's own heart that favours attacking flair and is almost myopic towards defensive solidity.

Whoever takes over will have to rectify this weakness, starting with the goalkeeper, and continuing with the inadequacies of the pivotal defender, Peacock.

The way Aston Villa clawed their way back was engineered in the dressing-room — a half-time switch of tactics by Brian Little, the manager, who, just because Newcastle may have wanted him, has profited by a new five-year contract from Doug Ellis the chairman.

Whether the chairman or the manager were comfortable about that after 20 minutes on Saturday is another matter. For, in the sixteenth minute, Staunton was woefully exposed by Shearer. When Beardsley, who yet could be groomed as a future guide and coach to Newcastle, released the ball forward into the inside left channel, it was barely an invitation.

It was Staunton's ball, yet he allowed Shearer to outpace him to muscle him off it, to make another five yards and then with breathtaking self-belief to drive home his shot, low and hard and just inside



Yorke, the Villa striker, shoots beyond Hislop, the Newcastle goalkeeper, but wide when given the chance to win a fluctuating match

the penalty box, beneath the dive of Bosnich:

It was Shearer's eighteenth goal of the season, and what nonsense — some reporters spread when they suggest that Juventus are seeking an exchange deal, taking Shearer to Turin and sending Alessandro Del Piero to Tyneside. Shearer is the most potent symbol of Newcastle and of the English game. Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, may covet such power and industry, but Shearer could not play for him this season in the European Cup. So forget any deal.

We could not forget Shearer. His presence, his touch, was blamed for the slip on the turf that cost Bosnich a second goal in the 21st minute. To be sure, when he had the ball

safely in his hands, the goalkeeper was lightly touched from behind by the England centre forward. However, his standing foot fell from beneath him two yards further on, and when he attempted to kick the ball, it went to Clark, who promptly, splendidly, kicked it straight back over his head, over Staunton, into the unguarded net.

The Geordie fanatics grouped around a banner that read, "Thanks for the memories, Kev", had changed their tone. "Terry 'Mac'" they chanted, to the acting manager, McDermott. But he, emotionally drained by the week, the right-hand man to all Keegan's work, was sum up correctly: "Nothing's changed, you score, we score ... It was

the same as when Kevin was here."

The very same. Had Newcastle reached half-time safe in their two-goal lead, the new era might have been launched. Instead, Albert tripped over the ball, Yorke took advantage and was then

body-checked by Peacock. It was five minutes before the interval, five seconds from the free kick. Albert headed it to his right, and Wright side-footed the ball back across the goal for Yorke to score.

After half-time, with Southgate moved back from midfield to police Shearer and with Staunton galvanic in midfield, the tactical change put Villa in the ascendancy. The equaliser came after 51 minutes, the interpassing between Staunton and Yorke cutting through some horrific defending before Milosevic claimed his fourth goal from five matches, preying on the loose ball when Hislop had done well to parry a shot from Staunton. Now the Hult End teased their visitors:

"Keegan's playing golf." Yorke could have had three goals. Instead he had to be taken off with a thigh strain after twice shooting wide and, crucially, hitting a penalty feebly and so close to Hislop

that the big goalkeeper was able to block it, and the rebound. The penalty had come when Albert, unwise to the fact that Milosevic shoots with his right foot, recklessly tackled him, and missed the ball.

In the end a draw was the right result. And, long after it, McDermott was beginning and ending every sentence with the name of Kevin, but his pal and mentor had gone, a public man suddenly no more visible than a swallow in the sky.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-1-2): M. Bosnich — U. Biro, R. Staunton, G. Thompson, F. Naylor, R. Schmeida, S. Milosevic — T. Johnson — G. Southgate, A. Wright — T. Johnson — G. Yorke (sub: S. Johnson, 68), S. Wright, N. Clark (sub: N. Clark, 71), S. Milosevic — P. Hislop — S. Weston, D. Peacock, P. Albert, J. Beresford — K. Gillespie, D. Body, L. Clark, R. Elliott — P. Bradstock — A. Shearer. Referee: G. Pat

Blackburn Rovers 4
 Coventry City 0

By PETER BALL

SO WHO needs Sven Goran Eriksson? On Saturday Blackburn demolished Coventry City, their fourth win in five games extending their run since Tony Parkes took over as caretaker manager to two defeats in 12 matches — and one of those came in his first game.

Sven Eriksson is too far ahead, we're not even thinking about him," Henning Berg, the Blackburn defender, said. "Tony Parkes is the manager, and he's done a brilliant job. He says the right things, he gets us motivated, he keeps it simple, and there aren't many team talks."

It is not just the team's record at present, but the way Parkes has got them playing. Blackburn may have made the most inspired internal promotion since Bob Paisley replaced Bill Shankly at Anfield.

Strachan was also, perhaps, caught out tactically. With Whelan suspended and aware that Blackburn had played with Sutton on his own up front, Strachan moved Dublin to his favoured centre forward position and played with two central defenders.

Parkes won the tactical battle. Gallacher, who scored the second goal with a crashing shot, and Wilcox quickly pushed up to become out-and-out wingers. But, as Strachan said: "It doesn't matter what formation you play if you can't pass the ball to one another, and lack commitment."

Under their caretaker manager, Blackburn have both — and tactical nous, too. "To score four goals against Coventry City and to jump above them was quite satisfactory," Parkes said. "Ten men can make it very difficult for you, but we coped with it very well. Although we played well, our performance at Everton is still our best display of the season so far. It's another win and another three points in our fight to stay in the division."

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-1-2): P. Ball — J. Walker, R. Hinds, G. Henning, G. Lees, K. Gallacher (sub: G. Donis, 74min), T. Sherwood (sub: G. Fenlon, 88), G. Patricot, L. Bohnen, J. Wilcox, C. Sutton — G. Yorke (sub: G. Johnson, 71), S. Weston, D. Peacock, P. Albert, J. Beresford — K. Gillespie, D. Body, L. Clark, R. Elliott — P. Bradstock — A. Shearer. Referee: G. Pat

Chairman's casting vote leaves Robson on edge

Middlesbrough 0
 Southampton 1

By SIMON BARNES

NEVER mind policemen. It is when self-made multimillionaires start looking like schoolboys that you know you are getting old. I didn't know he was a millionaire, though. The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, mainly assuming that we all somehow knew, simply called him Steve. I had to fall back on my skills in investigative journalism.

Shiny-faced and curly-haired, he was so sincere that first I took him for something in public relations. Then I gathered that he was in the middle of giving the manager a vote of confidence. This would be an impertinence in a PR boy. Brilliantly, I deduced that, strange though it seemed, this was the chairman.

And I was right. This was Steve Gibson, 35, grown-up, hard-nosed, haulage mogul and boyish football sucker. The pair had taken the unusual step of addressing the press before the match had even begun. They did so in order to stress their overwhelming love for each other. Some rotten newspapers said that Robson had offered his resignation. Outrageous! We cannot allow such stories to continue!

They left, more or less arm-in-arm, beneath a hail of confetti and their football team then proceeded to make a complete hash of the ensuing match. The near-40-million quidsworth of exotic talent looked clueless and, for that matter, spineless. A soft touch: odd that one of the hardest men to have kicked a football in recent years could produce so hapless a side.

They lost to Southampton and so dived to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. There is no ducking the matter, it's hiding it behind loving smiles: this is a truly terrible result, the worst so far in a truly terrible season. We often consider, in cup games or watching Wimbledon, the great footballing mystery in which the team is greater than the sum of its parts. Middlesbrough lack this elevating

talent for multiplication. Instead, they have subtraction.

Or perhaps division. A team so much less than the sum of its high-priced and hand-picked parts has never before been seen in English football.

The case for the defence says that they have done all right in cups. They even beat Liverpool in the Coca-Cola Cup in midweek. But to call a team "a good cup side" is like calling a rugby union man "a good sevens player", or a cricketer "a good one-day player". That is to say, not quite the real thing. Killer stat: Middlesbrough have scored 26 goals in six cup games this season; in 22 Premiership matches they have scored 25.

Southampton, another struggling team led by a former player of legendary hardness, Graeme Souness,

with the penalty, bulged the net satisfactorily.

Southampton have found some incipient vertebrate forms amid the primordial slime of their relegation struggle. They will learn from this game more about themselves and about each other. Middlesbrough learnt nothing.

The team is filled with talent and bad vibes. Middlesbrough could yet do the traditional double of the candyfloss side, a trip to Wembley and relegation.

Surely it would be more shocking if Robson had not offered to stand down. Only a man not given to gross self-delusion could fail to see that four wins in 22 just will not do. And Robson is an honourable man.

Extraordinary as it may seem, his dream continues, with wild, desperate stubbornness. Another day, another foreign star. At least this one is a defender. He is Gianfranco Festa, a centre back. He will be signed from Internazionale for £2.7 million if he passes his medical today. Robson hopes to have him signed up in time for the match next weekend against Sheffield Wednesday. Interesting week tomorrow. Middlesbrough face a hearing for their failure to meet their fixture against Blackburn Rovers. They could be punished by a loss of points.

Another of football's eternal mysteries is the question of what a manager actually does. My theory is that his function is the same as that of a fuse in an electrical circuit. Its sole purpose is to be changed when the lights blow up.

Few managers survive such results as Robson has been producing; fewer still survive a vote of confidence as whole-hearted as that of Robson's. The mad, brave experiment is at the point of crisis. Still, there are consolations. This could be the finest side the Nationwide League has seen.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): G. Walsh — N. Gibson, S. Gibson, D. Whyte — C. Blackmore, C. Heywood (sub: S. Johnson, 88), R. Emerson, R. McMillan, S. Johnson, G. Fanning — J. Jurado, F. Reilly.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-5-1-1): M. Taylor — F. Benali, K. Moniou, U. van Geldorp — M. Robinson (sub: S. Cherton, 88), J. Magilton, G. Souness, M. McLean, P. McLean, C. Fanning — J. Jurado, F. Reilly.

Referee: G. Achib



Robson: desperate

have also been something of a soft touch this season. But they came up to Middlesbrough to spoil and scrap for a point, and did better than they bargained for.

Spurs put Le Tissier on the bench, played one man up and was lucky to find a referee prepared to let niggling fouls go and linesmen happy to enter with his defenders into the conspiracy of offside. That said, Middlesbrough were hopeless in their attempts to solve these problems.

The goal came after a disputed corner. Players lost

concentration in their sense of grievance. Monkou's header brought a fine instinctive save from Blackmore, but Blackmore was not the goalkeeper. He was sent off and Magilton, going for the blast technique

Caught up in the business of stress management

STEVE McMANAMAN



on pressure in the modern-day game

sure, too, simply because the sport is so high-profile. Multiply that by about a hundred and you begin to understand why Keegan began to turn his back on it. Not only did he have to win things, he had to run a massive company, handle just about everything at the club.

That is why I believe it can only get worse for managers and more will follow Keegan through the revolving door.

With clubs becoming big business propositions, there is so much money at stake.

That means even more roles for a manager, even higher stakes and, inevitably, even more pressure.

I have always said that I would like to stay in football after I finish playing, but not as a manager if I had to do everything that managers are forced to cope with. I think there is a strong case to be made for splitting the job up into separate roles for different people.

A manager has to be a financial expert, a PR expert, a coaching expert and an expert in psychology. He also has to build a winning team. Judging by Keegan's reaction, he tried to take all those roles on and couldn't cope. I wouldn't be interested in the financial side, the contracts and fees, and I think that must evolve into a role for someone else.

Another of football's eternal mysteries is the question of what a manager actually does. My theory is that his function is the same as that of a fuse in an electrical circuit. Its sole purpose is to be changed when the lights blow up.

Such an intense spotlight is pressure. He had to be careful with every single thing he did and he had to win things. If you don't like it, then you have to get out because there is no hiding. And it is only going to get worse.

Football is indeed a truly terrible sport. It's the sport sexy and everybody wants a piece of it. Managers and players at the big clubs are under a pressure

treated a bit like pop stars, there is an acute interest in everything we say or do. I suppose I first noticed it when I did an interview for a magazine with Robbie Fowler a couple of years ago.

The guy who interviewed us was very gaunt, he took

things completely out of context and turned us over to make the article look a bit spicy. The next thing we knew, it was repeated in all the tabloids.

Now, it's a fact of life.

Make a comment to anyone

and it can end up in a controversial remark in the tabloid newspapers. It means a footballer has to be as guarded about the things he says as a politician.

There are many other pres-

in this month's issue

'I want to manage Liverpool'

John Barnes on following Roy Evans

'Everything I've done since leaving United has been to prove Alex Ferguson wrong'

Paul McGrath gets even



THE ESSENTIAL FOOTBALL MONTHLY
 FEBRUARY ISSUE ON SALE NOW

FOOTBALL

Albion pay the penalty for ignoring aerial threat

Wolverhampton W 2
West Bromwich Albion 0

By RICHARD HOBSON

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers made their concession to comedy when Sir Jack Hayward, their philanthropic owner, allowed filming of parts of the final episode of *Only Fools and Horses* on the driveway of his mansion in Sussex. Yesterday, his side got on with the serious business and, as West Bromwich Albion struggled along like the Trotters' Reliant Robin, they purred as smoothly as a Rolls-Royce.

One game does not a season make, as Mark McGhee, the manager, emphasised afterwards. His caution was understandable in that no future opposition, surely, will be quite as compliant as Albion. It can only remain to be seen if the commitment prevalent in Wolves' play from the first whistle to the last owed itself to the fact that this is, without doubt, the most passionate derby outside the FA Carling Premiership.

On the other hand, McGhee may have been right all along to claim that once a harrowing run of injury problems is behind him, which is almost the case now, Wolves have the beating of anybody in the Nationwide League first division. All will become clearer within the next month when they meet the three sides directly above them, Bolton Wanderers, Barnsley and Sheffield United.

"We have had a difficult time but we are still in a good position and we have to believe that we have a decent chance of promotion," McGhee said.

In the build-up to this game, Arthur Mann, the Albion assistant manager, explained the approach of the visitors. They would aim to frustrate Wolves to the point where the passionate home support, who

have seen their side succumb six times at Molineux this season, would turn against them in frustration.

So much for theory. Wolves went ahead in the third minute and, for the remaining 80, the crowd of 27,326, the best of the season here, kicked up an almighty racket in between the odd Mexican wave and conga.

No adjective can be sufficiently harsh to describe the Albion defending. It was not simply the fact that they conceded two soft goals, but that their downfall mirrored the situation in the corresponding game at the Hawthorns last September when they lost 4-2 and failed to deal with the aerial threat of Iwan Roberts.

This time, both Roberts and Dean Richards were granted free headers. "One of these days we will give Wolves a game instead of giving them the game," Alan Buckley, the Albion manager, said afterwards.

The first goal stemmed from an error from Paul Crichton, the Albion goalkeeper, whose kicking throughout suggested that he had moulded his boots around a 50p piece. Wolves capitalised from his first mistake to earn a corner and when Steve Frogatt centred from the right, Richards met the ball powerfully from eight yards.

Wolves doubled their lead in the 37th minute with a move that began when Steve Bull dispossessed Ian Hamilton near the halfway line. Neil Embden found Jamie Smith along the right and this time Roberts checked his stride and arched his neck before injecting sufficient power into his header to beat Crichton.

By the end of the first week's trading, the shares had more than doubled in value to £220 and the club had generated £16 million. But Buckley did not feel Keegan's hasty exit to tell him what sort of financial road those figures



Bull, the Wolverhampton striker, adopts a horizontal position in the 2-0 victory at Molineux yesterday

Managing to make the most of it

Andrew Longmore watches Alan Buckley treading carefully through The Hawthorns

Alan Buckley could be forgiven a momentary lapse of memory last week. "Kevin who?" he asked. He had other things on his mind than the likes of Kevin Keegan, more mundane things, like his left back's dodgy hamstring and the flu bug that had struck his midfield. Then there was the little matter of Midlands bragging rights, revenge for the 4-2 thrashing suffered at the hands of their local rivals earlier in the season.

If all that was not enough, the West Bromwich Albion manager had the words of his chairman ringing in his ears, not the dreaded vote of confidence, something much worse than that. Money. "The most momentous day in the history of the club," Tony Hale had said when the flotation of Albion on the Alternative Investment Market was of

Beal's day
helps put
Leicester
under

RUGBY UNION

Welsh confidence not dented by tenacious Eagles

Wales 34
United States 14

BY GERALD DAVIES

DOUBTLESS there were only a few who left Cardiff Arms Park with any sanguine expectations of Wales's chances of being among the leaders of the five nations' championship, which begins for them at Murrayfield on Saturday. This, however, would be an unfair view and a premature judgment.

Expectations before the match were too high to begin with. Anticipating an exhilarating performance of seamless movement against a visiting side that is making only tentative steps in a sport that is hardly their forte, was not entirely realistic.

A bagful of tries was on the cards, it was thought. But the Eagles, like other developing rugby countries, are catching up and have found that stiff resistance is the key; a well-organised defence can make quite an impression. Wales, in front of only 13,500, were in control for large swathes of this game in terms of possession

and territory, but failed to accumulate a large score because of unforgiving tackling. The Eagles pursued their tactics like demons.

For those who felt denied the pleasure of a massive Wales victory, Jack Clark, the Eagles' manager, offered some consolation. "We're not a fun side to play against," he said.

"Teams are expected to score eight tries and more. When this does not happen they are criticised. We prepared well today. What we lack is precision. That is our future aim — to be more precise. At the moment we are a blood and guts team."

Clark yesterday suspended Wilkerson, the flanker, for four weeks for kicking Jenkins, the Wales hooker.

Apart from the first five minutes of the second half, when the visitors were only three points behind, the home team was never in danger of losing. In the fifth minute Bacheler scored the best try of the afternoon. Lyle emerged on his own ten-metre line to begin a combined movement that saw the scrum half cross for a superb try to bring the score to 17-14.

ANDREW REDINGTON/ALLSPORT



Evans, the Wales wing, is brought down by Hightower as he tries to burst through

Wales, however, had dominated the lineout, through Llewellyn and the scrums. They were always likely to win the loose ball, where Charvis had an effective match. Wales's weakness was that they were unable to create enough chances to break cleanly away. There were too many "body checks" and charges. On the two occasions when they did get away, they did not score.

Howley broke clear to give Scott Quinnell a run but the No 8 chose to ignore his support and run a step too far. Gareth Thomas on the wing should also have crossed the line but he, too, missed the opportunity. Had these chances been taken, Wales might have grown in confidence. Instead they stammered.

After six internationals, the Wales selectors must now realise there is a good team to be drawn from the players they have seen. To arrange the correct combination at half-back and in the second and back rows is their problem.

Equally difficult will be to name the captain. Chosen as the original leader, Jonathon Humphreys, the hooker, could not play because of a seven-day suspension. His concerns were realised. A strong case could now be made to make Scott Gibbs the captain. Not only did he play well and scored a brilliant try, but his forthright and practical assessment of his team's performance, made eminent if for the players, uncomfortable sense. He looked a comfortable leader.

Thomas and Alexander had exchanged penalties before Evans got the first of his two tries and Gibbs had scythed through the middle which left him untouched for his score. Thomas converted both. Alexander's two penalties gave him a total of 152 points in his career and makes him a record scorer for his country.

Bacheler closed the gap but Wales stretched their lead with a Thomas penalty. Evans's second try and a penalty try. Thomas converted both.

SCORERS: Wales: Tries: Evans (2), Gibbs (penalty try), Condon (4). A Thomas (2). United States: Tries: Bacheler (2). Penalty goals: Alexander (5).

WALES: J. Thomas (Cardiff); I. Evans (Llanelli), A. Behan (Richmond), S. Gibbs (Scarlets), G. Thomas (Bridgend); S. Quinnell (Cardiff), G. Jenkins (Llanelli), C. Llewellyn (Scarlets), G. Jenkins (Scarlets), D. Young (Cardiff), C. Chevallier (Scarlets), Gareth Thomas (Scarlets), S. Condon (Cardiff), S. Alexander (Scarlets), S. Charvis (Richmond). Howley replaced by P. John (Pontypool). Thomas replaced by G. Jenkins (Scarlets). Gibbs replaced by C. Davies (Cardiff). T. Jones (Scarlets) replaced by J. Davies (Cardiff). 65-70.

UNITED STATES: M. Williams (Gentlemen of Aspen), V. Alford (Seattle), S. Alexander (Seattle), R. D. Collier (Seattle), J. H. Hightower (Seattle), B. Hightower (Gentlemen of Aspen), M. Alexander (Denver), B. Bacheler (Seattle), R. L. Lyle (Seattle), A. P. Quinnell (Seattle), G. Jenkins (Scarlets), B. L. Clegg (Gentlemen of Aspen), J. Wilkerson (Belmont Shores), C. Vogl (Seattle), D. Young (Seattle), R. Lusk (Seattle). Williams replaced by G. Monroe (Gentlemen of Aspen), B. Alexander (Seattle). Alexander replaced by J. Walker (Gentlemen of Aspen), 73.

Referee: L. Mayne (Ireland).



Blanco celebrates his decisive score in the French victory over Australia at the 1987 World Cup. Photograph: Andrew Redington/Allsport

When Blanco saved the best till last

In 1987, in Sydney, David Hands, rugby correspondent, saw a defining moment in the development of the professional game

Some great moments in sport acquire a lustre all of their own, born in the magic and the quality of the fleeting second; others attain an additional significance through their long-term effect. The latter was the case in the western suburbs of Sydney on June 13, 1987, during the semi-final of the inaugural rugby union World Cup.

To be in the Concord Oval, off the bustling Parramatta Road, as rugby union tipped towards the professional future that has been a principal consequence of the decision to stage a World Cup, was to see prediction stand on its head, to experience the end of an era and, though we could not be certain at the time, to discover that New Zealand would be the first country to lay their hands on the Webb Ellis Cup.

This was the World Cup that would be contested between New Zealand and Australia, their was that had persuaded the fuddy-duddy British to take part, they were the hosts and with South Africa absent for political reasons, the northern hemisphere had no chance of upsetting destiny. Given that Australia had won a series in New Zealand the previous year, moreover, there was

every confidence that the Wallabies would confirm their status as the world's best.

All was not well in the Australian camp, however. The players were uncomfortable "on tour" in their own country, they were unhappy that Alan Jones, their coach, devoted so much time to his radio show, they were worried about a series of over-physical training sessions and the limited opportunities to relax in a limited team

hotel. They won their pool matches and the quarter-final with Ireland comfortably enough but seldom playing rugby of the quality one had come to expect.

Now they had to play France for the privilege of reaching the final. Public expectation, home advantage, the perceived French inability to produce their best form away from home — everything was on their side.

But the clouds were gathering: neither Brett Papworth, the elusive centre, nor the giant Bill Campbell, in the second row, lasted beyond the first quarter because of medial ligament damage. Moreover, Campbell's replacement, the young Troy Coker, was to be the last to stand on its head.

Then came the rain.

It was the first pass in a

sequence that saw possession move through 14 pairs of hands, each time a blue-

shirted player appearing when the move seemed to be dying, initially it was interrupted by Patrice Lagisquet, who kicked into centre-field.

A try by Philippe Sella

snatched the lead for France, but David Campese established a world record for

international tries when he restored Australia's advantage.

So it went on, nip and tuck, the balance tilting one way then the other until, with three minutes remaining, Didier Camberabero kicked an angled penalty to make the score 24-24.

The tension, with the prize

of a place in the final, was almost tangible — though just 18,000 people were there to feel it. With five minutes of injury time played, extra time loomed but, as Australia tried desperately to keep the ball alive, a pass by David Codey was cut off by Sella and the loose ball was moved left to Serge Blanco.

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The tension, with the prize

TENNIS: BRITISH NO 1 PROVES HE HAS THE MAKINGS OF A CHAMPION ON EVE OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Henman's rapid climb clears way for ultimate ascent

BY DAVID MILLER

IT IS a shame that Fred Perry, one of Britain's sporting legends of the past, is no longer with us. He would have loved to share the elation at the prominence of Tim Henman, the young British player who may be about to become the first to fill Perry's long empty shoes.

Henman's first title on the Association of Tennis Professionals Tour, the Sydney International, achieved on Saturday with a straight-sets victory over Carlos Moya, of Spain, suggested that any question regarding a first grand-slam title for the 22-year-old from Oxford is not whether but when.

Good fortune shone on Henman yesterday when Mark Philippoussis, the big Greek-Australian with a service even more formidable than Henman's own improved delivery, was obliged to withdraw from their scheduled first-round encounter in the Australian Open, starting today, because of an arm injury.

Philippoussis's replacement is a lucky loser in the qualifying. Andre Pavel, of Romania, who is ranked No 135 in the world, this should provide Henman with an easy passage to the second round and some opportunity further to adjust his metabolism to the rapid transition through eight time

zones from the Middle East last week.

I am not suggesting that Henman is about to win the Australian Open, or the Wimbledon title. Such a pinnacle may still be two or three years away. He has developed slowly, as did, for example, Sebastian Coe in athletics back in the late Seventies.

Yet in the space of two galloping weeks, by reaching his final, his first title and a place in the top 20. He has calmly and promptly revised those objectives.

"I like to set myself tasks,"

he said before departing from Sydney for Melbourne and the first grand-slam tournament of the year. "and now I want to break into the top ten and do well in the grand slams."

Modesty does not desert him.

He did well enough, by traditional British standards, in the grand-slam events last year,

with a quarter-final place at

Wimbledon and the last 16 in

the US Open in New York.

He and David Felgate, his perceptive coach, keep a firm grip on reality. Together they have rapidly advanced his service potential and fitness level during the all-too-brief winter respite, yet Felgate remains as level-headed as his young charge. "For the future, a top-ten place is the obvious goal," Felgate said yesterday.

"But more important is his

year-end ranking. There is

still a lot of work to be done."

Should Henman surpass

Mike Sangster, Roger Taylor,

Cox and John Lloyd, the four

players who came nearest to

wearing Perry's mantle,

he will have done so with a

resolution as steely, if not

more so, than Perry with his

memorable three consecutive

Wimbledon titles in the

Thirties.

In Perry's day, the stage was

commanded by a relatively

small number of supremely

gifted amateurs. Perry, having

first made his mark as a

table tennis champion, reac-

hived the top in tennis by

unrelenting professionalism

with a small "p". He was

helped by the coaching of Dan

Maskell, who would thread a

racket handle through the net,

protruding just above the tape

on one or other flank, until

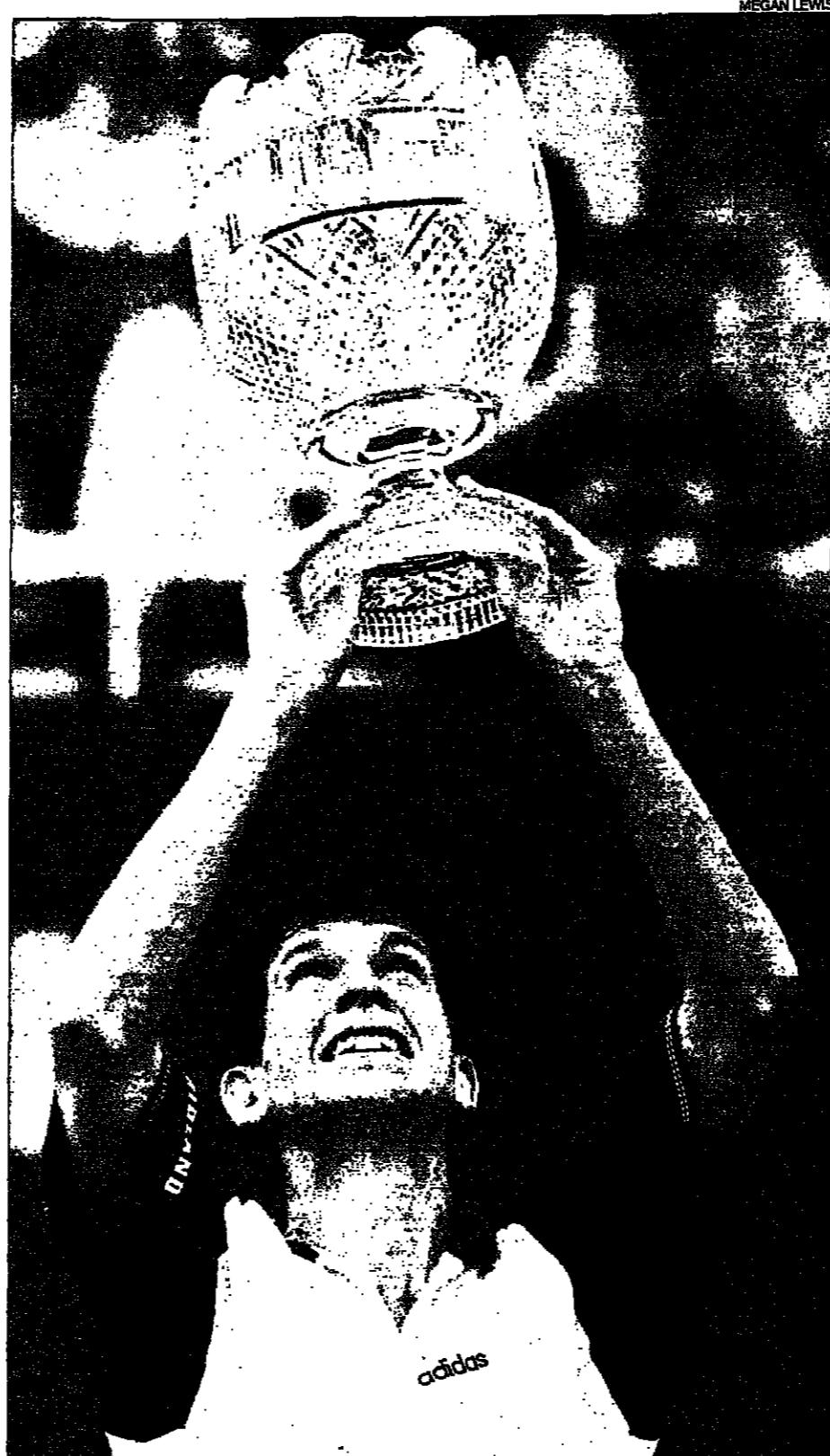
Perry could strike it almost at

will. Henman's forehand is

occasionally reaching this

quality.

Yet in Henman's era, while



Henman holds the trophy aloft after securing his breakthrough victory in Sydney

player break new ground, as neither has won a top-level tournament. It will be Bjorkman's second final and Carlsen's third.

The last surviving seed, Hernan Gumy, of Argentina, the No 5 seed, was beaten 6-4, 7-6 by Carlsen in the quarter-finals.

Tom Spinks, of Norfolk,

surprised the top seed, Nick Weal, in the semi-final of the Bass-Reebok Tour event at Telford, won the tournament on Saturday with a 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 victory over Paul Hand, of Berkshire.

It is the first time that two unseeded players have made the final of the Auckland tournament, and the match will also see at least one

Wimbledon victory over Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, who is seeded eighth in Melbourne, in the relative backwater of the Czech indoor championship at Ostrava in the autumn. I sensed that Henman genuinely has the makings of a champion, even if it still takes some time for him to consolidate his position and potential.

Counting the cost to sport of freeze-up

The fickle British weather has taken its toll on the sporting programme over the past few weeks, reducing the traditional holiday football and racing programmes to rubble. The matches that have survived have often become a comedy of errors with players unable to keep their feet on the icy pitches. The press conference rooms are, meanwhile, filled with the wintry sight of losing managers blaming the cold for their team's inept performance.

Racing has been particularly hard hit by this winter's big freeze, losing 23 meetings over the Christmas period. The cancellations have cost the sport several million pounds in lost revenue — money that is not easily recouped later in the season. The Boxing Day racing programme, in particular, attracts many casual first-time racegoers who may develop a taste for the sport from this annual outing but are less likely to make a trip to the races at other times of the year. Rearranged meetings on the country's three all-weather tracks, which cannot host jump meetings, are a poor substitute for all but the most committed racegoer.

It is not just the immediate cost of lost gates and corporate hospitality receipts that has hurt racing. Repeated cancellations also have an impact on sponsorship deals. The Welsh National, for example, has been lost to the weather three years running and there are growing fears that Coral may reduce or even withdraw its sponsorship from the race.

Cancelled meetings are also particularly bad news for the jockeys and trainers. Jockeys can face genuine hardship as most are paid per mount rather than through a fixed salary. Boxing Day is traditionally a bumper pay-day for jockeys who can pick up six mounts at around £7.50 a ride — as well as the bonus prize-money. Trainers meanwhile do at least still receive their retainer for the horses but lose out on their cut of the prize-money which tops up their income. The trainers also face the headache that cancelled races can make it difficult to prepare the horses properly for big events such as Cheltenham in March.

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



For football, postponed is an equally expensive business. David Sullivan, the Birmingham City chairman, estimates that lost fixtures over Christmas cost his club around £150,000. Replayed fixtures soften some of the blow but, in general, midweek matches mean smaller gates and less sponsorship money and shop takings. Postponements also bring extra costs such as dumping unused programmes that have been printed well ahead of the games. Birmingham also suffered because the club lost £60,000 in television money when their game against Tranmere Rovers was postponed.

For the smaller clubs, lost matches can cause serious financial trouble. The Christmas gates are among the largest of the season, when casual supporters rub shoulders with regulars. The absence of a regular income can cause cash-strapped clubs real problems as they struggle to continue paying their staff — leaving them reliant on the charity of their already long-suffering banks.

Inevitably, the cold snap has

resurrected pleas for a winter break, which is heavily favoured by managers and players keen to recharge their batteries over Christmas. But the pernicious British weather is just as prone to a cold snap in March as in late December, while the directors are less than keen to see their club's income disappear halfway through the season.

The alternative, such as

underfloor heating, is beyond

the wallet of all but the biggest clubs — costing around

£150,000 to install and £1,000

a day to use. For the time

being, the majority of British

sport is going to remain vulnera-

ble to the whims of our weather.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Seeds fall by wayside

KENNETH CARLSEN and Jonas Bjorkman meet in an all-Scandinavian final at the rain-hit New Zealand Open in Auckland today.

In the semi-finals yesterday, Carlsen, of Denmark, beat the defending champion Jiri Novak, of the Czech Republic, 7-6, 6-4 and Bjorkman, of Sweden, disposed of Marcos Ondruska, of South Africa, 6-1, 6-1.

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When I saw him beat Kafelníkoff last year, the sort of home-ground fortune that can be a one-off achievement. Now we know that Henman genuinely has the makings of a champion, even if it still takes some time for him to consolidate his position and potential.

FIRST THE WINNER

ACE FIRST CLASS

cream triumph PREMIER

conqueror

Tim Henman wins his first ATP Tour Event and breaks into the world top 20 with his new Slazenger Phantom Tour Braided Racket.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPER

Urgent need for Wilkinson to take FA back to school



Wilkinson: well qualified

I Howard Wilkinson, the new technical director of the Football Association, is to become the unifying factor between the amateur base of the game and England's desire to regain respect at the highest professional level. He must, sooner rather than later, go back to school — where he briefly taught physical education.

When he accepted the post at Lancaster Gate a week ago, he identified this priority: "The future of football is with the kids, and that is where I'll be spending most of my time. Teaching is the most important profession in the country, and I hope that, despite the cynicism that surrounds coaching, I can be an agent for change."

Wilkinson is in a minority of one, as a man who holds a

degree in physical education, and has managed a club, Leeds United, to the FA Cup Final. The FA Cup Final. Yet, at his inauguration last week, there was one empty chair... no representative of the English Schools FA.

Wilkinson said this was because Malcolm Berry, the chief executive of ESFA, was recuperating after a replacement hip operation. Berry himself hankers for a call from Lancaster Gate, for some sign that those who rule the game are truly prepared for integration. Moreover, John Morton, the chairman of ESFA, points out that no invitation to the schools was ever made.

The chasm between schools football and the ruling power will have to be bridged by Wilkinson. Both Berry and Morton, who is a qualified FA

coach, and has been a PE teacher for 27 years, insist that they are willing to meet Wilkinson at any time, almost any place, the hip permitting.

The new FA technical director, his priority being to put the best coaches in touch with the best talents at the earliest appropriate age, therefore has it in his own hands to begin the process of unity. He lamented, four years ago, that the FA's lack of discussion with the professional managers, whose chairman he remains, was "like planning a war, and not asking the field marshals and generals whether they had any thoughts, values, opinions on the matter".

His curriculum for schools, contained in the final recommendations of the FA's programme for excellence, has by no means been adopted within a majority of the 13,000 to 13,000 football-playing

schools in England. However, Berry, the chief executive, and Morton, the chairman, agree that the centres of excellence which the FA has established throughout the country are thriving, and are a fulfilling venture for many school teachers. Similarly, the schools are at one with the FA in promoting five and six-a-side tournaments, that take the growing pupils out of the crippling 11-a-side, full-pitch syndrome.

There are those in the schools who know precisely what he means. Suspicion and mistrust have festered between teachers and the clubs, and between schools and the FA, for two destructive decades. Even today, those who teach children are wary of what they regard as the dictatorial policies of Charles Hughes, the director of coaching and education, whose long tenure at the FA will soon end.

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There is still a need for leadership," Morton said. "We need some vision about where we are going. We want to trust the FA, to seek integration with them, to feel that the welfare of growing young footballers is of common interest."

To achieve that, Wilkinson, now effectively the professor of coaching, needs as a priority

educators and the so-called profession remains a source of disquiet. But Berry, adamant that partnership and not confrontation is the way ahead, suggests: "For far too long, all the bodies in football went their own way. If the FA are serious in developing the grass roots, then for the first time in their lives, they must help to fund schools football, in return for which the schools would help to develop the players they want."

He awaits, therefore, Wilkinson's call, and part of the early discussion should be the appointment of an FA director for schools footballers, "a children's director", as Jimmy Armfield, the former England full back and the man who has worked behind the scenes to narrow the divides, forecast last week. Back to the classroom and the playing fields.

Best leads the way for Winchester to secure title hat-trick

By JOHN GOODBODY

NOT much stops cross country. The slopes and bracken of Knole Park in Kent have been covered in snow and ice for almost a fortnight and, on Saturday, a mist settled on the hills.

However, Sevenoaks School, the hosts, put down grit on the most hazardous inclines, shortened the boys' race to 3.9 miles and allowed one of the most picturesque events in the schools' sporting calendar to take place. If some of the backmarkers looked unhappy in the conditions, the faster runners usually kept their balance and control.

One exception was Ed Barnett, fourth equal last year, and determined to lead Winchester to their third successive team victory in an event entered by 44 schools. He was accidentally tripped and eventually finished fifth.

Winchester still packed six athletes into the top 18 to finish well ahead of Harrow, with Shrewsbury third.

The victory was a justification for the unceasing preparation of Colin Upton and Johnny Brooks, the college masters in charge.

Last term, members of the squad were often training four times a week at 9.15pm around the streets of the cathedral city, after homework had been completed. The boys were given individual running schedules for the Christmas holidays and there were phone calls to check how they were progressing. Upton said: "I think my voice on the end of the phone was not always welcome."

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Mark Best, equal fourth with Barnett last year, finished second as the first Winchester boy home. Only 17, he is an Independent Schools 1500 metres champion.

Only Skinner's School in the 1970s had previously achieved a hat-trick. Best said of the conditions: "It was really foggy and slippery. We just had to grind it out." He finished two seconds behind Oliver Laws of Shrewsbury, who won in 21min 24sec.

Laws opted to take part in the Knole Run rather than the inter-counties championships

In the girls' race, over 1.9 miles, Katie Turner, of Stamford HS had what she termed a "cat-and-mouse" race with Sarah Langridge, of Ardingly, who finished third. After I overtook her for what was the last time I did not look behind." If she had, she would have received a shock. Olivia Hills, of Bradford, a former Somerset schools 800 metres champion, finished only a second behind, despite having done no serious running "for years". Ardingly, the Mid-Sussex champions last term, took the team title.

Turner triumphant



Laws takes an early lead on his way to cross-country victory at Knole Park

NETBALL

England draw up critical list

By LOUISE TAYLOR

BEDFORD is not usually associated with weekend breaks, but the England under-21 and senior netball squads have benefited from spending the past two days at De Montfort University.

Liz Broomehead, the national coach, booked the weekend as final preparation for the home internationals, which begin with the England v Wales clash in Cardiff on January 25.

Teams for that match will be announced today and those

hoping to go on the tour to South Africa in the spring will be anxiously perusing the names on Broomehead's list.

England have lost just once in 55 encounters with Wales and they aim to improve on last year's 50-32 victory. "We will be submitting our stron-

gest under-21 and senior

squads in Cardiff," Broome-

head said. "The match will play an important part in the selection of players for this year's overseas touring parties."

An England reserve team would probably easily defeat Wales and Broomehead must wish that the home countries offered slightly stiffer opposition. One reason that England remain fourth in the world rankings is a shortage of decent opposition closer to home.

Netball is generally played in Commonwealth or ex-Commonwealth countries. European interest is strictly limited.

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FOOTBALL

Stevenage begin attack on summit

the two sides meet at Broadhall Way on Saturday week.

Stevenage conceded a goal in the second minute on Sunday, superbly hooked over his shoulder past Wilmott from 25 yards by Hall, recently called up by Barbados to play in the Caribbean Cup in April. It was not until two minutes into the second half that they drew level and then finally imposed themselves upon improving opponents who had won four of their previous five matches.

Hayles, under the gaze of Stevenage's 15 points behind, their quarry back in sight after the excitement of their FA Cup ventures — and with the chance to cut deeper into Kidderminster's lead when

done well to keep out a fierce header by Beevor.

Stevenage took the lead in the 62nd minute, with Hayes guilty of feeling sorry for themselves after a Francis free kick had smacked the woodwork and Browne finding space to play in Beevor.

Six minutes later, Beevor switched the ball across the penalty area for Catlin to guide the ball home and wrap up a precious victory.

HAYES (3-1-2) R. Meara — N. Bruce, J. Goodfellow, A. Cox — D. Wilson, M. Randall, J. French, I. Duncan, M. Hall — J. Moore, S. Beevor, P. Beevor, R. Murchell (sub: J. Brady '70).

STEVENAGE BOROUGH (3-4-1-2) R. Wilson — E. Sodje, M. Smith, R. Kirby — D. Moore, C. Williams, P. Williams, R. Murchell (sub: C. Williams '70), G. Williams '88, C. Brooks (sub: N. Timpson, '72), R. Hayes (sub: D. Clark).

Bullimore sounds fanfare for common men of sailing

We have not heard the

full "Tony Bullimore

story" yet and no

doubt there will be a lot more

razzmatazz to come, with film

deals, newspaper buy-ups and

a book. Yet if Bullimore's "15

minutes of fame" ended to-

morrow, the sailing world can

already be grateful.

Bullimore, the self-styled

"Del-Boy" of yachting, is

exactly what you do not expect.

More importantly, he is nothing

like what the general

public would have expected

in a round-the-world racing

yachtsman: I should not think

there has ever been a blue

blazer in his fitted wardrobe.

Despite the fact that many

of our top racing sailors are

from modest backgrounds,

the sport still suffers from its

image as elitist and snobby; it

is seen not as an ordinary

recreation open to all, but one

where a selection process

based on means restricts the

field from the beginning.

Bullimore is not the exception

that proves that rule, because,

in truth, there are many like him in the sport.

But, unlike them, he is under

the spotlight. He came out of

his upturned hull the other

day like the breath of fresh air

for yachting his starved lungs

must have been yearning for.

That first interview from the

HMAS Adelaide, about "deter-

mination, chocolate and

water", punctured a million

preconceptions about the "ex-

clusive" world of yachting.

He was a normal, down-

your-street kind of guy from

Southend who, to use a well-

worn phrase, had "ducked and dived" his way through

life, combining all sorts of

unlikely business activities

with a passion for yachting.

There were no silver spoons

Edward Gorman on the

yachtsman whose new

fame is like a breath

of fresh air to the sport

Many yachtsmen love it for

these very reasons; an activity

that is carried on away from

the madding crowd, often at

considerable risk. But the

French, who guard the

passion for the philosophical

challenge of the sport more

fervently than any other na-

tion, have shown that sailing

and public enthusiasm can

go hand in hand.

In France, the interest in

yachting is huge. The Vendée

Globe skippers are stars in

their

RACING

Levy Board finances escape worst of weather

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

RACING has emerged from its weather-enforced hiatus in sound financial shape. As a widespread thaw offered the prospect of an imminent return to normality, Horseracing Betting Levy Board officials confirmed that the two-week absence of turf racing in Britain would not impact on the sport's finances.

The worst sufferers have been jockeys and racecourses, the latter only partially protected through insurance of their bigger fixtures against inclement weather. But, no cuts to the prize-money pool are planned after the emergency package of all-weather fixtures generated higher than expected levels of betting turnover.

Although Fontwell's abandonment today was the first fixture lost this season, it will require further disruptions before the Levy Board is forced to

ing. Remarkably, televised coverage of Lingfield's Saturday meeting nine days ago – coupled with the emergency fixture from Wolverhampton – generated nearly 90 per cent of the forecast turnover had the combined turf fixtures at Haydock, Sandown, Warwick and Musselburgh gone ahead. The all-weather success story could not have come at a better time, prize-money for 1997 had already been reduced to £28.5 million from £30 million the previous year.

Nevertheless, Brack calculated that over £1 million in levy has been lost since the weather deteriorated over Christmas. Packages of additional fixtures have been arranged, both to claw back the deficit and provide opportunities for beleaguered racecourse executives. "The emphasis is to give racecourses worst affected a chance to recover," he said. "Every racecourse to have lost a fixture has lost revenue."

In addition, prize-money for some existing races has been boosted to alleviate the loss of a series of valuable prizes. Five contests at Kempton's two-day meeting later this week have benefited from enhanced funding. The two on Friday – the Walton Juvenile Novices' Hurdle and the Astford Novices' Hurdle – have respectively attracted 32 and 42 entries, many of them highly regarded. Two races at Haydock on Saturday have had their purses similarly increased.

More immediately, the outlook for tomorrow is encouraging with a full programme in prospect. At Leicester, which stages the first of a batch of replacement fixtures, Nick Lee, the clerk of the course, said: "We could race on the hurdles course now and, although it's still some frost on the chase course, things are improving all the time."

A similarly bright bulletin was issued on behalf of Carlisle. The clerk of the course, Johnnie Fenwick-Clemmell, said: "We are frost free, it is mild and the forecast is good." Fenwick-Clemmell also reported that Kelso, scheduled to stage racing on Friday, is now free of snow.

Freezing conditions 12 months ago saw no horse racing take place for five days after Christmas. When the scheduled all-weather programme commenced in January, some £1 million in levy had been lost. That prompted the British Horseracing Board to prepare the contingency plan that has sustained the sport this year. "We estimate that the five all-weather fixtures after Christmas brought in £350,000 in levy income," Brack said. "There is the additional cost of staging these meetings to consider but funds were obviously saved as turf racing was hit."

All-weather racing has seen punters bet up to 70 per cent of the sums expected from a full daily programme of turf rac-

ing. Williamson, who replaced Warren Marston on Master Tribe because of his experience of Leopardstown, felt that he might have been going too well. "I would have preferred to have hung on to him for longer, as he idled in front. But when Khayman dropped away, I had to go."

Williamson said:

"Master Tribe was so well

revise its financial commitments. "We will be outside our budget even if the weather is tolerable" in February and March, but there is no cause for alarm," Rodney Brack, chief executive of the Levy Board, said. "We allow for 45 abandonments. Most of the losses have been budgeted for, and the all-weather fixtures slotted in between Christmas and the new year have worked well. These replacement fixtures have been a brilliant success."

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Amanda Loose on Pop-lacrosse — the mini-version of the game with few rules but plenty of enjoyment

Tough sport made children-friendly

HUGH BOUTLEDGE

Pop-lacrosse is one of Britain's fastest growing sports — and children love it. A miniature version of the field game, Pop-lacrosse is played in more than 1,200 schools and the numbers are growing by the term, says Mark Coups, the national director of development and coaching for the English Lacrosse Association (ELA).

Pop was launched at the 1987 London Youth Games at Crystal Palace, to encourage more children to play lacrosse from an earlier age. "People in lacrosse realised we were not attracting the youngsters as early as other sports did. The earlier you attract children, the greater the chance of keeping them," Mr Coups says.

It has been a huge hit. The number of players has increased by about 10 per cent each year, and there are now 30 ELA coaches working in more than 600 schools, three quarters of which are primary schools. It is also an ideal game for people with learning difficulties or with disabilities.

The membership of many of the clubs has increased thanks to children being encouraged to go along by their schools and more youngsters are taking up field lacrosse, Coups says.

"Pop is a progressive sport. About 80 per cent of the male British under-19s team started by playing Pop, and at the under-16s level, this figure is even higher. Pop is becoming the basis for the proper game. Having coaches from a club coming into schools helps us to hang on to the children," says Mr Coups, who first played field lacrosse when he was only two.

"We looked at games like football, which were in direct competition with us, by attracting the eight to 11-year-olds, and realised that we needed a miniature version of lacrosse," he says.

An indoor or outdoor game, Pop can be played on any surface, and the ELA rules say that the game should be played with mixed teams of eight children, four boys and four girls wherever possible. "It is a very basic, non-contact version of field lacrosse," Mr Coups says. "Using lightweight plastic sticks which bend, and softer balls, the children learn to throw, catch and shoot, and as there aren't any goalkeepers, every child has the opportunity to score."

Emma Bradbury, 18, is working as a local development officer for the ELA in her gap year, before studying sports science at university. Ms Bradbury has been teaching Pop to the seven to 11-year-olds at Hereford Cathedral Junior School since September, and at Garsley and Lugwardine primary schools in the same area.

"We went co-ed six years ago," says Tim Lowe, headmaster of Hereford Cathedral Junior School, "so I wanted to boost games the girls could take part in."

After Mr Lowe had watched children playing Pop at the Manchester Youth Games last year, he contacted the lacrosse club in his home village of Mellor, near Manchester, to



Team game: Emma Bradbury, 18, who is working as a local development officer for the English Lacrosse Association in her gap year, with her Pop-lacrosse pupils at Hereford Cathedral Junior School



find out if it had any gap year students who would be willing to coach his pupils.

"It is a real beginners' game and great for developing hand-eye co-ordination and ball skills. The coaches are trained to make it fun," says Mr Coups.

"The pupils love it and it is very cheap and easy to set up. We use mini hockey goals and bought 24 sticks for £184, with different coloured heads for the teams."

Coups says: "Pop meets all the National Curriculum requirements for Key Stage 2, which had added to its popularity in schools. It suits all sporting abilities and the children start at the same level, because none of them have ever played before."

"Pop is very fast and a novelty for the children because they can carry the ball along. The whole body is used, and their limbs have to be co-ordinated. They have to use

their imagination to decide where to throw the ball next."

Ms Bradbury started to play field lacrosse at The Athelred School, Southampton, when she was ten, and at 17 played for Hampshire, where she is now a reserve in the county senior squad.

"The children enjoy Pop because of the minimal rules of the game," she says.

Because there isn't a goalkeeper, scoring opportunities are high. Apart from teaching Pop during the school day, I have just started an after-school Pop club."

Ms Bradbury is the first coach to be employed full-time, and for a year. The other coaches, half of whom are now local and regional tournaments, as well as the national Pop lacrosse championships.

Two eight-strong teams of

the children from Hereford Cathedral Junior School have just taken part in their first tournament, organised by the Welsh Lacrosse Association. The B team reached the semi-finals of their group, and the children are now working towards a more advanced seven-a-side tournament next term — with a little extra coaching from Ms Bradbury.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In this year's Gold Cup, Steve Ray's team consisted of three husband and wife pairs — the Rays, the Seniors and the Tesomes. They lost by 6 IMPs in the round of 16, to Bernard Teltscher's London-based team. This is a hand on which Tony Priday (South) afterwards criticised his own play.

Dealer North **Love all** **IMPs**

♦Q4			
♦V104			
♦AK862			
♦AK2			
♦A852			
♦Q83			
♦J97			
♦1098			
♦9783			
♦AK752			
♦4			
♦1053			
♦KJ10			
♦986			
♦Q1053			
♦0754			
♦N			
♦W			
♦E			
♦S			

Contract: Four Hearts by South.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Wijk aan Zee

This week sees the start of one of the major events in the chess calendar, the traditional elite competition in the Dutch town of Wijk aan Zee. Nigel Short, Britain's top grandmaster, will be hoping to repeat his triumph from Groningen in December, where he captured first prize. On this occasion, though, the strength of the field will be increased by the inclusion of the strong grandmasters Gata Kamsky, Vassily Ivanchuk and Valery Salov.

In the past, though, Short has shown himself well able to inflict defeat on this type of opponent and British fans will be hoping for another Short victory, confirming that he has finally returned to top form after his match defeat by Kasparov in London in 1993.

Black: Nigel Short
White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Horgen 1995

French Defence

1 e4	e6		
2 Nc3	Nc6	Bb4	
3 Nf3	d5	Ne7	
4 Bc4	Be7	Na4	
5 a3	b5	Qc7	
6 b3	c5	Qd7	
7 Nf3	d4	h6	
8 Nc3	Qd7	Bd4	
9 h5	Qh6	Nf7	
10 Bc3	Qd7	Nd7	
11 d5	Qh6	Qd7	
12 Rf4	Qd7	Qd7	
13 Bc3	Qd7	Qd7	
14 f3	Qd7	Qd7	
15 Qd2	Qd7	Qd7	
16 Rf4	Qd7	Qd7	
17 Rb4	Qd7	Qd7	
18 Bf5	Qd7	Qd7	
19 Rf4	Qd7	Qd7	
20 Qd1	Qd7	Qd7	
21 Kd1	Qd7	Qd7	
22 Rf5	Qd7	Qd7	
23 Rf4	Qd7	Qd7	
24 Rf3	Qd7	Qd7	

Diagram of final position

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2

contains 240 chess puzzles

from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*

and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



In early versions of the game, matches could last for two or three days

THE GAME SO FAR...

EARLY field lacrosse was certainly a sport for all. Explorers in America found teams made up of more than 100, and sometimes 1,000, Native Americans playing a fast and furious game called Bagatay.

It often lasted two or three days and the goals were sometimes several miles apart. The game was used to accustom warriors to close combat, and to encourage endurance for war and hunting parties.

The game was dubbed "lacrosse" by French settlers because of the similarity between a bishop's crozier and the long netted stick used by players. Queen Victoria was an early fan of field lacrosse when it came to England in the last century. It quickly became part of the then Cult of Athletism, adopted by men's clubs and girls' schools, which became the bastions of field lacrosse.

The sport has recently experienced a renaissance — there are at least 100 lacrosse clubs in England, Scotland and Wales and about 15,000 adults play lacrosse regularly. The game has also become faster than ever, with ball speeds in excess of 15mph.

Both the male and female British teams are the European lacrosse champions and the women's team is No 2 in the world, having lost the last two world championships to America. They will play at the world championships in Japan in April, and are tipped by Mark Coups to win a gold medal. The British men's team is No 4 in the world.

START-UP COSTS:
A set of 12 Pop-lacrosse sticks and balls costs £115.71, including delivery, or you can hire a set for ten weeks for £39.95. No special surface or goals are needed. ELA (0121-773 4422).

North (Teltscher) opened One Diamond and over South's One Heart response rebid INT, showing a balanced hand with 15-17 points. Then South bid Two Clubs, an inquiry bid. Now North jumped to Three Hearts to show a maximum with three-card heart support, and South went on to game.

Friday won the club lead in dummy. As he needed to set up a spade ruff he continued with a low spade. Unfortunately East was able to win, and she played a trump. Friday won with the king, and a second spade went to East's king; back came another trump.

In practice Friday played low and a third round of trumps from West sunk the contract. But as Friday said afterwards he should go up with the ace on the second heart. Provided the diamonds break favourably, he will have ten tricks when the hearts are 3-2, whoever has the queen.

After the ace of hearts declarer should continue with the ace of diamonds, and a diamond ruff. He then crosses to dummy with a club, and when the queen doesn't come down, he discards a club on the king of diamonds. Now he ruffs a diamond in hand, establishing the suit. Finally declarer ruffs a spade in dummy and cashes the fifth diamond. The tricks he makes are one spade ruff, four hearts in hand, two high diamonds and the fifth diamond, and two club tricks.

□ Several current world champions are among the 16 pairs who will be playing in the Macmillan International Pairs 1997 (January 22 to 24, at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1). You can watch all the tables or in the Viewgraph theatre. Information: 0181-878 5344.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TYPHON
a. With two voices
b. A waterspout
c. A giant

TENONIAN
a. Land tenure
b. With ten heads
c. To do with eyeballs

TRAGELAPH
a. A Flemish gable end
b. A goat-deer
c. A tragic semichorus

TUGGLE
a. A scout's cravat
b. To tug and wiggle
c. A freshwater fish

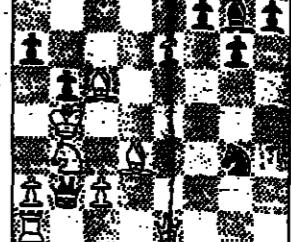
Answers on page 40

WINNING MOVES

By Raymond Keene

Black in play. This position is from the game Topalov — Kramnik, Belgrade 1995. In this remarkable game, Black's vicious attack had forced the white king to run from the kingside to the queenside in the hope of finding shelter. How does Black now show that White's efforts have been in vain?

Solution on page 40



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- If you are a problem solver
- How you relate to people

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THINKING STYLE

Gaining an understanding of how things function or considering hypothetical ideas are of little interest to you. Not only do you seem at times to not enjoy practical tasks, but you would probably rely on others for innovative solutions. You are liable

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE

You appear to strike a balance in terms of the way you influence others. As well as being moderately willing to take charge of the work performed by others, you come across as reasonably prepared to gain commitment by persuasion and negotiation

FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS

You describe yourself as someone who experiences a high level of general anxiety. However, specific events do not seem to have a major impact on your anxiety level so although you come across as someone who finds it difficult to relax you...

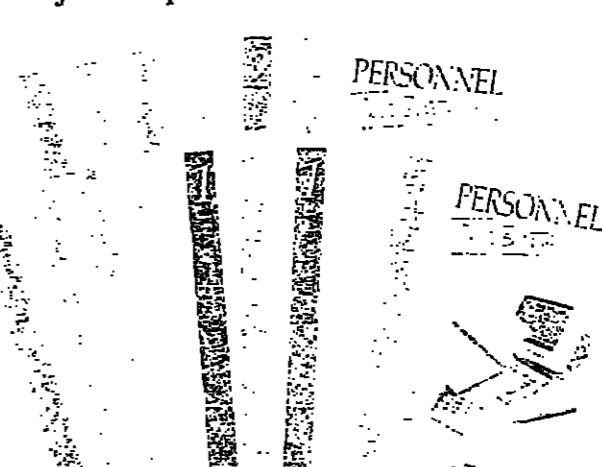


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In many roles, effectiveness is as much to do with an individual's personal style as it is to do with his or her ability. By understanding personality, Saville & Holdsworth can more accurately predict how you will fit within particular teams and work environments and how you are likely to cope with different job requirements.

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Postcode

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3. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly, 1-4 copies, during the week?
 Sunday Times *Sunday Express* *Sunday Mirror* *Sunday Star* *Sunday People*
4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly, 1-4 copies, during the month?
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CHANGING TIMES

Beal's day
helps put
stocks under
a firmer

**RETAIL
STATISTICS**
TODAY

Interims: Ellis & Everard, Tomkins. Finals: Cardiff Property. Trading statements: Boots. Economic statistics: UK December producer prices, Bank of France money market, tender, Bank of France discount T-bill auction. US December consumer prices index, US December retail sales, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Aim Group, Atlantic Telecom, Birkby, Matthew Clark, UNO, VHE. Finals: Denmans, Electrical, Trading statements: House of Fraser. Economic statistics: British Retail Consortium December survey, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills auction, API weekly oil supply statistics, Italy October EU trade balance, Italy November non-EU trade balance, Bundesbank calls for repos.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Aberforth Split Level Trust, Sydney C Banks, Benson Group, Dudley Jenkins Group, Stanley Leisure. Finals: none scheduled. Trading statements: Body Shop, Kingfisher. Economic statistics: French October current account, UK December unemployment, UK November unit wage costs, average earnings, Kenneth Clarke/Eddie George monthly monetary meeting, Bundesbank awards repos, US November business inventories, US Treasury announces size of two-year and five-year treasury notes auction.

THURSDAY

Interims: Carpetright, McKay Securities, John Menzies, Proteus International. Finals: Aberforth Smaller Companies, Allied Textile Company, Greenwich Resources, Lomrho. Trading statements: Next. Economic statistics: UK December retail prices index, French final Q3 gross domestic product, Bank of France money market tender, Bank of France monetary policy council meeting, Bank of France annual coupon T-bill auction, US weekly jobless claims report, Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank January economic survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. Finals: LPA Industries. Trading statements: Stethhouse. Economic statistics: UK December public sector borrowing requirement.

Singapore Airlines seeks open skies

By JON ASHWORTH

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) is renewing efforts to launch a daily service between London and New York, in a move that increases pressure for a new liberal aviation agreement.

The airline reports load factors of 80 per cent on its two existing transatlantic routes — from Frankfurt and Amsterdam — and says growth is being restricted. It is seeking a bilateral agreement to allow it to operate daily onward flights from London. It wants to increase services between Singapore and Heathrow from two to three flights daily, run weekly services from Manchester, and expand cargo operations.

SIA says a daily New York service would provide much-needed competition to British Airways and American Airlines, which together speak for nearly 70 per cent of the London to New York run.

Michael Tan, SIA's deputy managing director (commercial), said the move would increase consumer choice. A new UK-US "open skies" agreement is a prerequisite for the planned BA/American alliance.

Mr Tan said: "Many businessmen fly to London on

business, and would like to resume their journey on to New York. Heathrow is the natural choice given the close association between Asian countries and the UK. SIA has just been named Executive Travel/OAG airline of the year. The airline collected eight other awards, including best long-haul carrier."

Talks on liberalising air services between the UK and Singapore began in 1996, and are due to resume next month. Two rounds have been held so far. British airlines enjoy frequent flights beyond Singapore to

Business acts to cut cost of training

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE British Chambers of Commerce and top British companies are staging a revolt over the cost of training. They have created a new scheme which will halve budgets for external training programmes.

Participating companies in the scheme, called Syndicate Training, are Saatchi & Saatchi, Cable and Wireless, GKN, Rover, Midland Bank, PowerGen, Price Waterhouse and the Bank of England.

They each contributed £8,500, which buys them 24 places on 180 different management skills training courses. The scheme reduces the cost of external two-day programmes from the industry standard of £700 to £350.

The Chambers of Commerce said: "Companies who only need to train one or two key personnel at a time are faced with using out-of-house organisations who charge £600 or more per delegate. Consequently, off-site training has become a luxury many companies feel they can no longer afford."

Australia, and hubbing rights in Singapore; SIA has none of these benefits in the UK.

The UK accounts for a third of passenger traffic between Europe and the Far East, including more than 40 per cent of traffic to Singapore. Passenger traffic between the two countries has grown at 7.8 per cent a year over six years, and SIA's load factors out of the UK average 76 per cent. SIA says business will be lost to other European hubs unless frequencies are increased. It has "battled to increase frequencies since 1971."

Richard Thorne, left, the senior vice-president of OAG, hands over the airline of the year award to Michael Tan.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

DISCLOSURE NOTICES

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DISCLOSURE

Hercules to lift UK aerospace

Aerospace companies in Britain are poised to win at least £400 million worth of orders from a new generation of the Hercules military transporter, with US defence manufacturers also planning a civilian version of the aircraft.

UK companies involved in the project include Rolls-Royce, Lucas Aerospace and Westland. They will get a £4 million warshare per plane. Lockheed Martin, the US defence group, is the prime contractor. A hundred old Hercules are currently in civilian use around the world.

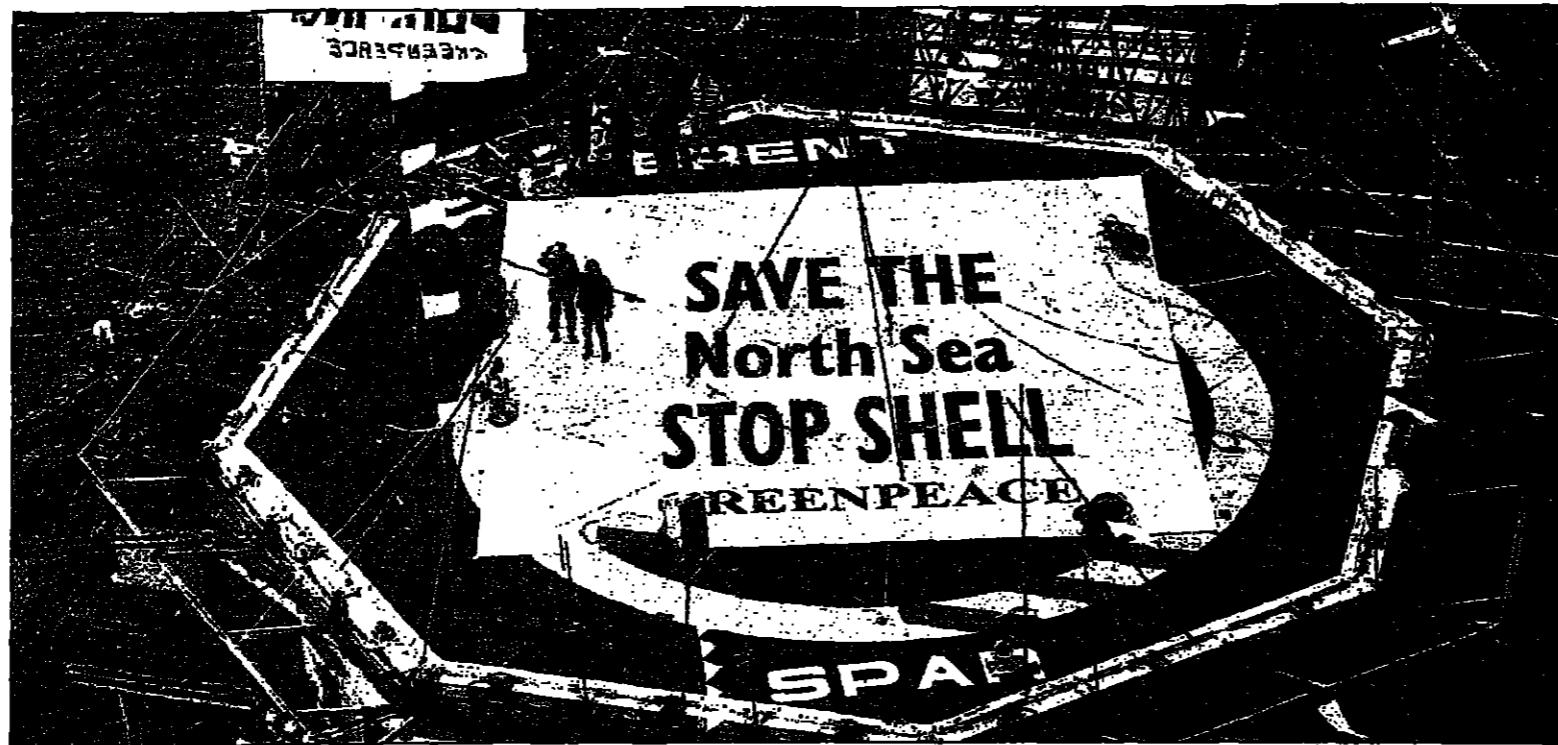
At the double

Henry Ansbacher, the South African-owned merchant bank, nearly doubled its pre-tax profit to £10.76 million in the year to September 30, it said yesterday. It made £5.25 million last year.

The latest earnings include a first pre-tax contribution of £0.08 million from FNB (Asia), which was transferred to Ansbacher a year ago. Ansbacher said both its UK merchant banking and its offshore operations performed well, while its South African financing activities experienced pressure on margins.

AIM first

Open Systems, the software company, plans to raise between £2 million and £3 million on AIM through an institutional placing, becoming the first US company to seek a primary listing on London's junior market.



Greenpeace campaigners pressured Shell into rethinking its disposal plans for Brent Spar and British companies concede fear of controversy now counts

UK companies fight shy of rights activists, says survey

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

ONE in five companies admits to having been deterred from an overseas investment because of lobbying by human rights activists, or over fears that the initiative would be too controversial, according to a new survey.

The survey shows that pressure groups are emerging as a powerful new force capable of damaging company profits and hindering overseas development. The most successful lobbyists are environmental organisations — among them Greenpeace, which succeeded via a high-profile media cam-

paign in forcing the Shell oil company to reconsider dumping the Brent Spar platform in the Atlantic Ocean in 1995.

Shell was also criticised last week by the World Council of Churches, which accused Nigeria's regime of widespread oppression in the oil-rich Ogoniland and attacked Shell for causing environmental damage in the region. Oil and gas companies are expected to continue to be the focus for environmental anger.

The British and American public are among the most sensitive about human rights

investment decision because of human rights issues, compared with one in three in Britain.

In the survey of 51 global companies with turnover in excess of £1 billion, 57 per cent of international development directors expected the risks posed by pressure groups to increase over the next five years.

Only 10 per cent thought they would diminish. Ninety per cent believed it was possible to work with pressure groups on the environment and 77 per cent thought col-

laboration possible on labour standards.

CR cites controversy over

Burma where in 1996 Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, and Heineken, its Dutch counterpart, both withdrew from the country rather than face a consumer boycott campaign.

However, a report last year by the British Government's Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment said although directors should involve environmentalists in policymaking, this did not guarantee escape from high-profile media reporting.

THE US tobacco industry's long running legal battle with anti-smokers has taken another twist with the decision by Liggett, one of the five main cigarette manufacturers, to turn over potentially explosive documents to its critics.

The news has already had a

damaging effect across the industry with the shares of BAT Industries, which owns Brown & Williamson, one of the big four US tobacco

companies, dropping 13p to 47.5p.

The documents are believed

to contain new evidence that

the industry may have covered

up the health dangers of

smoking and generated

favourable scientific results

under the guise of independent research. It is the second

time in a year that Liggett,

which is owned by Bennett Lebovitz, the corporate raider,

has stepped out of line with the

industry in an attempt to put

an end to expensive anti-

smoking litigation.

The company is proposing to

hand over notes of meetings of

the Committee of Counsel, a

group of senior lawyers from

the big tobacco companies who

regularly to discuss legal

issues over 30 years. The Com-

mittee also discussed health

research, public relations, legis-

lation and marketing and it is

notes on these conversations that

could prove most explosive for

the industry.

Liggett proposes to give the

documents to the attorney-

generals of several states that

are suing the tobacco com-

panies to recover the medical costs of treating people with smoking-related diseases. The company hopes that the documents will form the basis for a deal in which they would agree to drop their litigation. As the smallest of the tobacco companies, Liggett is least able to support the large cost of litigation.

Last year it stunned the

industry by agreeing to a deal

to pay plaintiffs over ten years

if they would drop their suits.

It was the first time a cigarette

company had paid out a

penny in damages, setting a

precedent. Soon after, several

state governments decided

that it was worth suing.

If they win, the tobacco

industry would be liable

billions of dollars of extra

costs. Liggett is now trying to

extricate itself from these suits

by presenting the new evi-

dence. Further proof that the

tobacco industry knew of the

dangers of smoking but kept it

secret will further damage the

\$45 billion a year business.

Several cases have come up

in the last year in which top

tobacco executives have been

accused of lying about what

they knew of the dangers of

smoking. However, Phillip

Morris, the largest tobacco

group, said it would oppose

Liggett's right to hand over the

notes. "Liggett has no right to

turn those over without the

consent of everyone at the

meetings," said Charles Wall,

deputy general counsel at

Phillip Morris.

New chapter opens for publisher



Razall: set to profit

COLLINS & BROWN, the publisher, is to join the Alternative Investment Market by the end of the month, making Paul Tierney, a director of United Airlines, a paper millionaire.

Tim Razall, national treasurer of the Liberal Democrats, is another shareholder set to profit from the 245 per cent return the company has provided to its original investors so far.

Mr Tierney, who invested £150,000 when the company started, now holds a 19 per cent stake that will be worth £1.05 million when it floats. He will become non-executive chairman.

Both men were brought on board by Cameron Brown, chief executive, who set up the company with Mark Collins. He broke from the Collins publishing dynasty 13 years ago and is now publishing director.

Mr Brown said: "Setting up a publishing business with Mark Collins is like setting up a bank with one of the Rothschilds. We are about the only publishing company set up in 1989 that survived the recession and we are set for even more growth now."

As one of the few AIM flotation this month, Collins & Brown will help the junior exchange to pass another milestone, its development bringing the total money raised by AIM companies, which has risen 12.9 per cent from the new year, against a 5.6 per cent rise of the FTSE AIM index.

More money is set to be injected by the AIM Distribution Trust. It is raising £10.3 million to invest in its portfolio of AIM companies, which has risen 12.9 per cent from the new year, against a 5.6 per cent rise of the FTSE AIM index.

The index shot up 23

points to 1068.60 over the

week, after what David

Abrahams, a trader from

Winterflood Securities,

described as the busiest week

the market had seen. He

attributed the rush to a delayed reaction to new year

tips.

FRASER NELSON

MPs to grill Savings chief

THE head of the Government's savings arm is to be grilled by a House of Commons committee this week over the unexplained £50 million black hole uncovered in its accounts (Robert Miller writes).

Peter Bureau, who succeeded David Butler as chief executive of National Savings last summer, will be quizzed by MPs on

the Commons Public Accounts Committee on Wednesday over a damning National Audit Office report.

The 36-page document, published in October, listed serious accounting errors at National Savings, which looks after some £60 billion on behalf of about 30 million people. The report said Nat-

ional Savings was owed £37 million by investors, and one account was £28 million overdrawn. Systems errors were blamed.

Mr Bureau is expected to tell the Commons committee that the errors have now been largely identified, new systems installed and that no money has actually been lost.

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UBS arm offers \$15m forex compensation

FROM PHILIP JEUNE IN JERSEY

A SUBSIDIARY of Union Bank of Switzerland is to offer compensation to 90 investors who claim to have lost \$26.7 million in foreign exchange deals carried out in Jersey by Robert Young, the trader now facing fraud charges. Cantrade, Private Bank Switzerland, the UBS arm that has also been charged with fraud in connection with the deals, is offering to repay the trading losses together with the appropriate interest.

"We are talking of between \$13 million to \$15 million in all," said Johann Bärlocher, Cantrade's managing director. "Both Coopers & Lybrand and KPMG have quantified the investors' actual losses at \$10.5 million and we will add interest from the time when each individual loss was incurred."

Cantrade has never accepted that the losses reached the claimed level of \$26.7 million and denies any legal liability on its part, whether of a civil or a criminal nature.

If the investors accept the compensation they will be asked to assign

their claims to the bank, which in turn may seek to reclaim some of the money from Deloitte & Touche, the accountants whose former partner Alf Williams is said to have audited Mr Young's trading figures, and Mayo Associates, the Geneva investment manager that acted as trustee for the investors.

The level of risk involved is at the heart of civil actions that have been brought by Mayo Associates on behalf of the investors against Cantrade, Deloitte & Touche and Mr Young in Jersey's Royal Court. It is

claimed that Mr Young's foreign exchange deals, carried out between 1988 and 1993, were subject to a strict 10 per cent downside limit but that the bank failed to inform the investors of their massive losses or to stop Mr Young from trading beyond the 10 per cent limit.

Mayo also claims that Mr Williams audited the purported results of Mr Young's dealings and that Deloitte & Touche failed to check the accuracy of Mr Young's stated profits. Both Cantrade and Deloitte & Touche have denied the allegations. Deloitte &

Touche says that Mr Williams merely advised Mr Young on tax matters, that he did not "audit" the trading figures and that Mayo never relied on documents provided by him. Meanwhile Robson Rhodes, forensic accountants, is helping the Jersey police to investigate the losses, which have so far resulted in a total of 98 fraud charges being brought against Mr Young, Mr Williams and Peter Stoneman, Cantrade senior manager. No pleas have yet been entered by the three, or by the bank itself which faces a further 33 fraud charges.

PIA sued by Burns Anderson over ruling

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

BURNS ANDERSON, one of the UK's biggest networks of independent financial advisers, is taking legal action against its regulator, the Personal Investment Authority, over investor claims for losses reaching £5 million.

More than 200 people invested money in the Villa Investments Plan offered by Steed Financial Services, based in Lincolnshire, believing that they were buying shares in a Spanish property venture. They were promised high returns generated from rental income and from an increase in the value of the property itself. The investors believed that they were making legitimate investments, while Burns Anderson claims

that they were buying into a timeshare.

The firm was one of the hundred or so financial advisers that trade under the Burns Anderson umbrella — an organisation of which Sir John Harvey-Jones was once chairman and Phil Cox, now finance director of Aida, was chief executive.

When Steed Financial Services went into receivership two years ago, it was discovered that a number of the shares in the property investment had been sold more than once. Since the losses were uncovered, the investors have been in dispute with Burns Anderson about compensation.

The network claims that the investment falls outside the Financial Services Act, which means that it is not liable for compensation. At the beginning of last year, Eversheds, the solicitor acting on behalf of the investors, took the case to the PIA ombudsman, who ruled that there could be a claim to a refund.

Burns Anderson took the case to appeal and lost, and now wants the case to be heard in the High Court.

If Burns Anderson loses, it should be able to claim for the losses against its personal indemnity insurance. However, in the past, insurers have been reluctant to pay out on such claims.

The legal tussle is a new chapter in the company's troubled history. Just over four years ago, the Burns Anderson Group, which comprised companies other than the financial adviser chain, went into receivership after its shares were suspended at a price of 2p. The network was ringfenced from the losses sustained by the group and was acquired by a management buyout team.

Europe set for record sell-offs

A RECORD \$3 billion of privatisations are expected in Europe this year, as governments scramble to reduce their debts before monetary union in 1999.

In a report published today, J P Morgan, the US investment bank, predicts that 1997 will be the peak year of the decade for privatisations. Last year's receipts came to \$43 billion, up from about \$25 billion in 1995, raising the total value of the European privatisation programme to \$230 billion.

Italy is expected to conduct \$20 billion of sales this year, with France second, followed by Spain and Germany.



John Jarvis, left, and David Thomas clinched deals in York and Hull for Jarvis Hotels, with a third deal pending

UK Estates' broker waives victory fee

BY FRASER NELSON

PEEL HUNT, the stockbroker, has agreed to waive the £15,000 victory fee it was going to charge UK Estates after buying £60,000 of its shares to bolster its defence against the hostile bid from Ashquay.

The move takes the vote controlled by those defending the company to 28 per cent, against the 38 per cent that Ashquay claims in support of its £21 million bid. The result will be decided by 1pm today, when the last submissions must be received.

Ashquay said it had heard nothing to refute its claims that the £970,000 administration bid UK Estates had clocked up was exorbitant.

UK Estates responded that the expenses were necessary to

build up its 15-strong property portfolio, which generates an average revenue of £200,000 per site against the £32,300 average generated by Ashquay's 62 properties.

Ashquay has also taken issue with the £530,000 that UK Estates has spent on its employees' benefit trust covering ten members, two of them directors. The scheme now accounts for 16 per cent of the fraction fighting the bid.

Harry Sproule, chief executive of Ashquay, said: "This is the kind of thing which should horrify shareholders and institutions."

Ashquay is raising £3.5 million through a rights issue, to cover the £1.5 million cost of the bid.

UK Estates responded that the expenses were necessary to

Jarvis pays £16m for Greenfield hotels

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JARVIS HOTELS has bought two hotels in England and exchanged contracts on a third in Scotland, spending a total of £16.22 million in cash.

The three hotels, all freehold properties, were part of Greenfield Holdings, which went into receivership last year. Croft Hotels (1996), a new company, was set up by Coopers & Lybrand of Leeds, the receivers, allowing the hotels to trade as normal.

The hotels being bought by Jarvis, which is led by John Jarvis, chairman and chief executive, and David Thomas, deputy chief executive, are the 90-bedroom Fairfield Manor Hotel in York and the 107-bedroom Grange Park Hotel in Hull. The latter also has a large leisure centre. The pur-

chase of the 62-bedroom Larmouth in Edinburgh depends on the transfer of its liquor licence.

□ America's Hilton Hotel Corporation (HHC) is expected to announce today in London the purchase of a 5 per cent stake in Ladbroke, owner of Hilton International.

Peter George, chief executive of Ladbroke and Steve Bollenbach, the head of HHC, are expected to take seats on the board of each other's company.

They are also expected to give the first details of their worldwide alliance since the announcement last August that the US and British versions of the Hilton brand are to be reunified after more than 30 years apart.

Capital idea that could force City to change its tune on diversification

Radio station provides food for thought for Jon Ashworth and Martin Waller

Tough times lie ahead for Capital Radio, Britain's biggest commercial radio station. On Thursday it will learn whether it has been successful in its bid for a new FM licence. But with 24 rivals, Capital's chances are not rated highly.

A new Capital headquarters opened last week in London's Leicester Square. DJs long banished to the Euston Tower face the prospect of "live" shows with celebrities in the Capital Radio Café, the first of many outlets planned under the Capital banner.

Work is progressing on a new record label and there is an investment in a Bombay radio station.

Capital's ambitions for the new FM franchise tax the minds of Richard Eyer, Capital's managing director, and Richard Park, who, as director of programmes, is instrumental in creating the station's identity. Park says the FM application will serve as an important test for the Broadcasting Bill, which allows for two FM channels from the same station in one city.

The aim is to run Capital Gold — currently on AM with a "golden oldies" and sport format — alongside Capital FM. Mr Park says: "If they're going to put items like that in the Broadcasting Bill, then surely there must be some sort of chance that we will succeed. I can't see why you should push open a door without letting anyone go through it." If successful, Capital hopes to be on air in its new format from March.

The decision to move to Leicester Square was taken 18 months ago. "We came up with the notion that a Radio Café underneath our premises might work very well," said Mr Park. "We have a lot of stars and celebrities using Capital all the time. It's very nice for them to come and have a bit of lunch with us and meet some of their public."

However, the City was less enthusiastic when, in November, Capital unveiled its agreed £57 million cash bid for My Kinda Town, which runs themed restaurants such as Henry J Bean, The Chicago Pizza Pie Factory and The Chicago Rib Shack.

Mr Eyer, for his part, admits to feeling a little

bruised by the reaction — the shares fell on the news — but says: "Having had people throw every argument they can think of at me for the past month, I emerged from the experience thinking the logic of the deal was even more watertight than when I went into it."

But where is the logic of a radio station running a chain of restaurants? This is not the 1990s, when diversification was the name of the game and the City would back its favourite entrepreneurs for every single bizarre and unrelated venture that took their fancy.

The Radio Café, with its live studio format, is one of two main justifications for the deal. Mr Eyer says: "We need to perfect the formula in London in order to have something that we know works to open elsewhere. We're already looking at property near our other radio stations, and other radio groups are approaching us."

My Kinda Town has the management contract to operate the Radio Café, and takes a share of the profits. Birmingham is the obvious next destination, to link with Capital's BRMB station there, and other stations in Kent, Sussex and Hampshire should also be suitable.

But the main growth could come from overseas, perhaps in the US with its plethora of local stations. In the UK, My Kinda Town would operate as the franchiser, finding local operators to run the restaurants, a process the company is already well versed at.

The second opportunity to cross-promote between the two will see the Pizza and Rib restaurants, for example, hosting live concerts that are heavily advertised on Capital's local stations "without taking any goodwill out of the account", as Mr Eyer puts it. He means that to use radio to push unrelated products risks damaging the station's reputation. But people are already used to planning their entertainment based on what they hear on the radio.

"I expected that the City would take time to adjust itself to the deal," he said. "For the most part, it has. There have just been one or two comments that have stung, but they have mainly come from journalists rather than institutions."

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

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Independence is safer route

There are four possible reasons for the higher yields on UK bonds compared with those of putative EMU members. First, UK economic growth in both nominal and real terms is stronger than in continental Europe. Consequently our output gap is smaller and so we face an earlier and more sustained tightening of monetary policy than the rest of Europe. Secondly, as continental countries scramble to qualify for EMU their fiscal policies are generally tighter in the UK. Thirdly, the impending change of UK government may mean there is an excessive political risk premium attached to gilts. Finally, the markets may perceive the EMU policy regime will be more "credible" than that of an independent UK.

UK bond yields would be lower if the UK joined EMU. However, this does not establish the case for EMU membership. That depends on why EMU membership causes UK yields to fall.

One risk is that the pursuit

of EMU membership results in policies that lead to slower growth and/or higher inflation. There is no point in having lower yields to achieve lower yields. The point of lower yields is to enhance growth. At the very least the UK should wait until its economic cycle is back in sync with the rest of Europe.

However, the problem may be more fundamental, relating to the undesirability of linking the UK economic policy and performance more closely to that of Europe over a long period of time. Europe appears to have more deeply seated structural fiscal problems than the UK.

Those relate to both its high levels of government debt and greater unfunded pension liabilities. These problems will

impose constraints on European fiscal policy for decades to come. The resultant fiscal policy may not be appropriate or desirable for the UK. At the margin the sustainable long-term growth rate of the UK may be faster outside EMU than inside.

There is also a question mark over the long-term credibility of the euro vis-à-vis sterling. The euro will not in its initial stages be a quasi-mark any more than the European Central Bank (ECB) will be a quasi-Bundeskbank with a 50-year track record. The ECB will have to establish its credibility.

European Monetary Institute (EMI) officials have indicated that it may not only prove inappropriate but may prove to be unsustainable. There are already signs of "austerity fatigue" in Europe. One route to easing these tensions will be fiscal slippage. Once countries have joined the EMU club it may be difficult to enforce the sanctions of the "stability pact", especially if a large group of countries are finding the fiscal constraints of EMU difficult to live with. At face value there ought to be a higher fiscal risk premium attached to euro yields than independent gilt yields.

The problem with the likely policy regime in the early days of EMU is that it may not only prove inappropriate but may prove to be unsustainable. There are already signs of "austerity fatigue" in Europe. One route to easing these tensions will be fiscal slippage. Once countries have joined the EMU club it may be difficult to enforce the sanctions of the "stability pact", especially if a large group of countries are finding the fiscal constraints of EMU difficult to live with. At face value there ought to be a higher fiscal risk premium attached to euro yields than independent gilt yields.</



Some Holocaust survivors say Swiss banks were an extension of the Nazi regime, taking money from Jews who fled or, as depicted in *Schindler's List*, were sent to death camps

Swiss culture of banking secrecy threatened by Nazi gold legacy

Holocaust survivors want more than a payoff. They are pushing for the law to be changed. Oliver August reports

Secrecy is to Switzerland's banks what snow is to its tourism industry. Without it, there would be no special selling point. The country's strict banking laws have made it the favourite deposit box of rogues from around the world. The four-inch-thick book of law commentaries, written in 1934, lists 112 ways in which banking secrecy can be violated. Merely asking a bank employee to reveal certain information is already a criminal offence. And punishment at the hands of the supposedly liberal Swiss is harsh.

Those endangering Zurich's future as a financial centre could face six months in prison or a fine of SFr50,000 (£21,000). Unsurprisingly, there are few offenders. There have been only two cases in the 1990s, according to the Swiss banking commission, which oversees the workings of 400 banks. One bank official was fined last year. He had confirmed an account statement over the phone to a caller who already held a paper copy.

This Alpine idyll has now been disturbed by a political timebomb that has been ticking for more than 50 years. Revelations about Nazi gold hidden in Swiss bank vaults rocked the nation. The allegations made by Jewish groups were robustly denied last year. But ill-tempered denials from Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, the Swiss President, this month finally shattered the posture of studied calm. In a bid to rescue their reputation, Swiss bankers will now try to appease aggrieved Holocaust survivors with a payoff. This may not be enough to preserve the cosy arrangements that made them millions. Too little, too late, say victims of the Nazis. The row is threatening to undermine centuries of wealth creation and is set to destroy the culture of secrecy.

As a first conciliatory gesture, the Government last week offered to "put

to a proper use" the SFr40 million so far found in dormant bank accounts. An official statement said: "The Federal Council is ready to immediately take up discussions with the banks and the interested organisations regarding the creation of a fund in favour of Holocaust victims and their descendants. A few weeks ago such a statement would have been unthinkable."

The banks have already signalled

approval. But the Government insists that the fund will not be an admission that Switzerland and its secretive financial institutions "profited cynically from the war". That is how Holocaust survivors describe the Swiss banks' behaviour. The banks gladly took money and gold both from the looting Nazis and the fleeing Jews, and kept it.

Jewish groups rejected the Government's limited offer and sent the Swiss stock market reeling. Avraham Burg, the chairman of the Jewish Agency, said: "The Swiss are again playing with words, attacking marginal issues and ignoring the central issues. They're trying to buy us with money that's not theirs." Instead of the gratitude that Swiss bankers had expected, they were confronted with a new threat: Jews from Jerusalem to New York might boycott Swiss banks. Mr Burg said: "As for now, the partial boycott was suggested —

economic disinvestment. We'll come with our recommendation for action

within four weeks." In response to this announcement Swiss bank shares plummeted last Monday.

The Holocaust victims want more than a payoff. They are pressing for rule changes in the Swiss banking system, which they say acted as an extension of the Nazi regime. Their fight has gained many powerful supporters. They include the World Jewish Congress and Al D'Amato, the New York senator who relies heavily



Senator Al D'Amato is campaigning on behalf of Jews

on the Jewish vote. Mr D'Amato, who was Bob Dole's presidential campaign treasurer, said: "Swiss banks have investigated themselves, saying trust us. But we don't trust them." He has proposed the idea of a Truth Commission along South African lines. Bankers involved would be granted limited immunity.

Mr D'Amato employs ten full-time Nazi gold researchers. The office of his chief of staff, Greg Rickman, even acts

as a war room. He has been investigating Jewish claims since last May and was behind the Senate committee hearing on Nazi gold that first put Swiss banks in the dock.

Mr Rickman is extremely critical of the Swiss response to the Jewish claims. The Swiss ombudsman who deals with individual cases has made little difference, according to him. Cases are either rejected straight away or sent on to the banks, which show little enthusiasm for investigating them. He said: "They have put their heads in the sand, wishing the whole issue will just go away. They have known about it for 50 years, but now they say they need five years to investigate. They thought they could get away with it — that's reprehensible."

Mr Rickman is lobbying to lift the secrecy laws. The Swiss parliament has approved a small amendment to bank legislation. But he wants to terminate the collaboration between the Swiss Government and the banks.

Curtailing secrecy, he hopes, will change Switzerland's status as an international safe haven. He said: "This way we could get at the drug runners, the gun runners, the terrorists who all keep their money there. From Marcos to the Iranians. If this happens the Swiss currency will dip because people will pull out their money."

The Nazi gold affair has become

extremely damaging for the banks. Even if all the calls for compensation and rule changes remained unsuccessful, the public relations battle at least seems lost.

Nazi gold has turned into a Swiss Brent Spar. The row pits German-speakers with a talent for secrecy and thorough planning against Jewish underdogs. Unlike 50 years ago, the German-speakers are Swiss. But the parallels, admittedly limited, have disturbing overtones.

To limit the damage, Swiss banks in co-operation with their Government have now begun a diplomatic counter-offensive. Staff at the London offices of Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation receive regular briefings on how to deal with inquiries about Nazi gold. Non-Swiss employees at UBS were sent a memo that "should give you the necessary background for discussions with clients, other employees, and your friends and relatives".

UBS felt it necessary to deny

specifically that it held Hitler's bank account. It described such allegations as "a rumour of a possibility", which was apparently dispelled by a US Government investigation in 1944 and 1945. But the banks have to acknowledge that fast-talking will not be enough. The memo said: "A large PR campaign is not appropriate. We are aware that the discussions and accusations have a negative impact on our image."

Instead of public proclamations of innocence, the Swiss have therefore reached for a tool much more in keeping with their national character. They created a committee to look into the affair — defence through diplomacy. But despite all their efforts, Swiss bankers have yet to escape the legacy of their opportunistic war-time predecessors. Guilt by association is almost impossible to disprove.

mers with the IoD — the black tie events will be held at the Hyde Park Hilton for up to a thousand guests. Ian Botham will speak at the first "Legends' Dinner" on May 19. Archie Norman and Bob Ayling are said to have been approached. John Major, Tony Blair, and Nigel Lawson, are among the names put forward from the world of politics. A promotion for the new venture will appear in *Real Business*, Caspian's alternative to the IoD's *Director* magazine.

Hot line

EMPLOYEES at Ashquay were kept busy last week phoning UK Estates' shareholders in a bid to curry favour before today's deadline on the takeover vote. Guess who was top of Ashquay's list? Frank Ridgeway, company secretary at UK Estates. He declined.

OH, Cigitate! The zealous PR company quickly distributed its client Hi-Tec Sports' preliminary results. What a shame they were the previous year's figures.

MORAG PRESTON

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Tails up: Iain Dale at Heathrow Airport before his departure as part of the mission to the Indian sub-continent

Knight and day

RELIEF — Angela Knight is fit and well after an operation on her knee. A tribute to the NHS, Knight was in and out in a day. All set with a prize pair of pins for the start of a new parliamentary term to day, the energetic Treasury

minister managed to squeeze in her annual skiing holiday before the operation.

Beefy on the menu
MORE depressing news for the IoD, after 14 rebel employees broke away to set up Caspian Publishing. The mer-

ry team of entrepreneurs are now organising a series of dinners with leading figures from the world of business, politics and sport. Set up in association with cricketeer Bob Willis, chairman of the National Sporting Club — which until recently hosted a series

of sporting lunches and din-

I NEEDED TO KEEP MY HANDS BUSY...



AFTER GIVING UP SMOKING...



SO I STARTED PAINTING



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How many reasons do you need to try Nicobrevin?

Nicobrevin is designed to provide support for those who want to give up smoking. It does NOT contain Nicotine & is non habit forming.

It's murder in suburbia

Book at Bedtime: The Wimbledon Poisoner. Radio 4, 10.45pm. The start of a ten-part adaptation of the classic Nigel Williams black comedy, abridged by Georgia Brown and read by David Troughton. This is more evidence that *Book at Bedtime* is showing great sureness of touch with its book selection, though wives may find themselves less in agreement with that proposition than husbands. But the story of Henry Farr, an ideal husband until he decides to murder his wife, is of course mere fiction. And there is much more to the story than the central thread, for this is really a tale of the dark forces at work in suburbia. The underlying relish in Troughton's delivery drags every comic nuance from the words, chosen by Williams with surgical precision.

EBU Early Music Series.

As with other manifestations of Euro ulti, there are plenty of sceptics on the matter of the European Broadcasting Union. "What is it?" and "why is it?" are among the frequently-asked questions, but at least nobody at the EBU is trying to promote a single note at the expense of all the others. This live concert from St Laurence Cathedral in Lugano represents the start of an EBU initiative and there will be a series of concerts from around Europe each year. Tonight's features Monteverdi, set in the context of vespers for the feast of St Laurence. Diego Paslosi conducts the Swiss Radio Choir, Sonatori della Gioiosa Marca and Concerto Palatino. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 2.00pm Nicki Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 John Peel's 9.00 Radio 1 Sessions 10.00 Word Up! 10.00 News 11.00 Radio 1 Breakfast 12.00 Clare Sturges 4.00pm Clive Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Chris Kennedy 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 The Village Chari Show 8.10 Words of Faith 8.30 Radio 2 Sessions 9.00 Radio 2 World Business Report 9.15 Anything... Goes 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 On the Shelf 11.30 Omnibus 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15pm Britain Today 12.30 Andy Kershaw 2.00pm Radio 2 Sessions 3.00 Radio 2 News 3.30 BBC English 3.45pm Radio 2 Late 3.55pm Radio 2 World 4.00 Sport 4.30 BBC English 4.45pm Britain Today 4.50 Sport 5.10 Take Five 5.15 Record News 5.30 Multitrack 5.45pm Global Concerns 5.45pm Britain Today 5.50 Sport 5.55 Europe Today

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, includes 6.35 Reading Preview 6.35 The Magazine, with Carolyn O'Neill 12.00 Midday with Michaela Strachan 12.30 Radio 5 Live 1.00 BBC Breakfast 1.30pm Radio 5 Live 2.00pm Radio 5 Live 2.30pm Radio 5 Live 3.00 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News... Extras 7.35 Gladiators! Norwich's path to glory in European Football Show, with David O'Leary 7.30pm Tonight's Football 7.45pm Radio 5 Live 8.00pm Radio 5 Live 8.30pm Radio 5 Live 9.00pm Radio 5 Live 9.30pm Radio 5 Live 10.00 Michael McLean, includes Nocturne 10.30pm Mel Cooper

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Sally Peterson 6.00 Mike Read 6.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Jonathan Dimbleby 12.30 Radio 3 Concerto 1.00 Radio 3 Concerto (Hon Concerto No 2) 2.00 Jamie Crichton 6.00 Newlight 6.30 Sonatas 6.50 Locatelli (Violin Sonata in D major) 7.00... 7.35 Glastonbury! Norwich's path to glory in European Football Show, with David O'Leary 7.30pm Tonight's Football 7.45pm Radio 5 Live 8.00pm Radio 5 Live 8.30pm Radio 5 Live 9.00pm Radio 5 Live 9.30pm Radio 5 Live 10.00 Michael McLean, includes Nocturne 10.30pm Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Pulse 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience 6.00 Graham Dene 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 7.00 Loraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 DriveTime, with Peter Doherty 7.00 Mac's Sportszone 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dickin

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air... Includes Russell (including music from Italy, Custer); Reading (Overture); Delibes (Liesl Matz); from Gounod's Faust 9.00 Morning Collection... Catriona Young begins a series of Mendelssohn piano 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nick Morgan, includes Stravinsky (Pastoral); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in D, Op. 28, Pastoral); Mendelssohn (Concerto in D, Op. 95, La campanella); Composer of the Week: Maurice Ravel

1.00pm News 2.00 BBC Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's Smith Square, London, with Bryn Terfel, soprano, Malcolm Martineau, piano, includes Brahms (Aeolian Kirche); Schubert; Lied; Weber; Beethoven; Lieder (Lieder des Feuer); Finzi (Fear No More the Heat); Horler (Under the Moon); 3.00pm Radio 3

2.00pm From the Proms: Christine Brewer, soprano, Tintinay, College of Music Chamber Choir, BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Mark Elder.

RADIO 4

5.55am Shopping 6.00 News 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 The New Commandments, with Polly Toynbee 11.55 8.58 Weather 12.00 News 12.30 Start the Week 1.00 Times columnist Melvyn Bragg 1.30pm News 2.00 BBC Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's Smith Square, London, with Bryn Terfel, soprano, Malcolm Martineau, piano, includes Brahms (Aeolian Kirche); Schubert; Lied; Weber; Beethoven; Lieder (Lieder des Feuer); Finzi (Fear No More the Heat); Horler (Under the Moon); 3.00pm Radio 3

2.00pm News: You and Yours 12.22pm Counterpoint, Ned Sherrin hosts the music quiz

1.00pm Music at One 1.30pm The Archers 1.35pm Stopping

2.00pm News: God's Country, by

2.00pm News: Stopping 2.30pm The Archers 2.45pm High altitude

3.00pm News 3.30pm The Archers 3.45pm Education 4.20pm (LW) 4.45pm Radio 4

4.00pm News 4.20pm (LW) 4.45pm Radio 4

4.45pm News 5.00pm (LW) 5.15pm Radio 4

5.15pm News 5.30pm (LW) 5.45pm Radio 4

5.45pm News 5.55pm (LW) 6.00pm Radio 4

6.00pm Six O'Clock News 6.30pm (LW) 6.45pm Radio 4

6.45pm News 7.05pm The Archers

7.20pm The Food Programme. With Derek Cooper (LW)

7.45pm The Monday Play: Jack — A Night on the Town with Martin Bell and Lucy Lee

7.55pm The Wednesday Play: Lucy Lee (LW)

8.15pm The Friday Play: The Week in the Life of... (LW)

8.30pm The Saturday Play: The Week in the Life of... (LW)

8.45pm The Sunday Play: The Week in the Life of... (LW)

9.00pm The World Tonight 9.15pm (LW)

9.15pm News: You and Yours

9.30pm The World Tonight 9.45pm (LW)

10.00pm The World Tonight 10.15pm (LW)

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Having a ball with Shirley and the Saxons

first, a plea. Could somebody arrange for Shirley Bassey to be 60 every Saturday night? *Happy Birthday Shirley* (ITV) was delicious and far too good to be limited to a one-off. If the Queen can have two birthdays, surely Shirley is good for half a dozen. My one regret was that the camp completeness of *Slave to the Rhythm* — lots of slaves and Bassey's very own brand of rhythm — meant the song had to be prerecorded and therefore couldn't include cutaway shots of the celebrity audience. Shame, I'd love to know what Michael Heseltine and John Prescott made of the choreography.

Now, on with the serious business. Dramatising the 12th century presents programme-makers with two enormous obstacles. The first is lampoon. *Monty Python, The Two Ronnies*, even early *Blackadder* — they and others have all had a satirical pop at the 1100s, so

that it is almost impossible to take the century seriously. Last night, as Aethelstan slumped and burped his way through episode one of *Ivanhoe* (BBC1), I was constantly reminded of Ronnie Barker. If this was the future of the Saxon nation, no wonder the Normans were looking smug.

The other problem for the 12th century is Lincoln-green. If a drama begins with a caption reminding you that Richard the Lionheart is in an Austrian prison while his brother John is plotting to seize the English throne, what do most people think they are in for? *William Tell?* Last night we also had a forest, a fat friar and a very fair maiden: Maid Marion, I presume. The lady Rowena.

The added complexity is that, as I recall, *Ivanhoe* does eventually turn into *Robin Hood*. But we can sort that out when we get there. Last night it was all we could do to get through Rowena's betrothal

banquet without giggling. Helped by restrained performances from James Cosmo as Cedric, Ivanhoe's father, and Claran Hinds as Sir Brian de Bois-Guibert, I just about managed it. Touch and go amid the a-wassailing, though.

Having spent most of the episode disguised as a pilgrim, Steven Waddington has yet to make his mark in the title role, but his romantic dilemma is shaping up nicely. The battle of the wills will be between Victoria Smurfit's beautiful but occasionally Irish-sounding Rowena and Susan Lynch's beautiful and not at all smug Rebecca. Some crusaders have all the luck.

(TV, last night), have a lot in common. For just as Cedric was keen to be shot of his spirited ward, so Arthur Conway, sweet-makher and drunken philanderer, was anxious to get his independent-minded daughter married off. "I'm not saying you're plain, but it's your attitude to men — you're not getting any younger." Agnes is 22.

Agnes, of course, is not plain either. Played by Claire Skinner, she's pretty enough to turn the head of any rich young man who might wander into her father's sweetshop in search of sugar mice. Enter Charles Farrier (Edward Atterton) and enter a pre-First World-War love story just about charming enough to make up for dialogue that made me wince at times, and sets and locations straight out of Christmas cards.

It was all so laboured. "Penworth" inquired Agnes as two urchins haggled over the toffee crisp. "Haporth," they decided, exiting with two beautifully wrapped paper cones and "Merry Christmas" all round. With that, our heroine was off down the not very dangerous-looking quays to inform the Feltons that her father had just taken a shovel to young Robbie. He'd been seeing Jessie, Agnes's younger and sillier sister. Seeing? Do I have to say more?

Women's rights and the benefits

REVIEW



Matthew
Bond

from a female point of view, over the next 750 years. Lady Rowena and Agnes Conway, the character at the heart of Catherine Cookson's *The Wingless Bird* (ITV, 9.30pm), have all in common. For just as Cedric was keen to be shot of his spirited ward, so Arthur Conway, sweet-makher and drunken philanderer, was anxious to get his independent-minded daughter married off. "I'm not saying you're plain, but it's your attitude to men — you're not getting any younger." Agnes is 22.

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Women's rights and the benefits

of contraception were the moral messages rammed home, especially by Farrier's splendid Aunt Nessie (Moira Redmond), who dropped in from Paris to warn her pregnant niece about the dangers of "producing children like piglets" and her uniformed nephew about what was coming next: "War, dear boy, war."

The changes to Friday night

are so considerable that it is going to take a couple of weeks to decide whether it still constitutes a compulsory night in. On paper, *Wilderness Walks* (BBC2) looked a good variation on therapeutic television, with Cameron McNeish taking a celebrity on a long and exhausting walk and having a bit of a chat on the way. In practice, it comes down to whether you want to be stuck halfway up Ben MacDui with the likes of Chris Brasher or not. Close call.

On Channel 4, *Dressing for*

Breakfast

returned, with Beatie Edney looking rather more soignée than she did before Holly Aird considerably more pregnant. Barring a rather ancient joke about Michael Bolton, Stephanie Calman's script was well up to standard, but more fun was to be had spotting the assorted attempts to conceal Aird's bump — longline jackets, floor-length coats and a casually clutched cushion all played their part. Next week, tune in to watch her play a lot of scenes from behind a high-backed chair.

Finally, a scream of triumph marked the return of a revamped and now perfectly broadcastable *The Giraffe Show* (Channel 4). "I can do the two kiss," shrieked Tara Cox, as she planted a kiss on each cheek of an unsuspecting Tara Palmer-Tomkinson. Well, not quite: real "it" girls don't leave messy mouth-marks on the cheeks of their interviewees. Unless, of course, it's a declaration of war.

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST

(70058) 7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (T) (75416) 9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (T) (21245)

9.20 ALL OVER THE SHOP (9942619) 9.45 KILROY (1069771)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (27705) 11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (5362023) 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (618400)

11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (8212690) 12.00 NEWS (T) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (7550042)

12.05 THE ALPHABET GAME New celebrity word game hosted by Andrew O'Connor (5162262)

12.30 GOING FOR A SONG (4824481) 12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (27419348) 1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (57053) 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (44919042) 1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (74826139)

2.05 FILM: *Miracle in the Wilderness* (1991) Kris Kristofferson as a retired US Cavalry soldier, whose idyllic life is shattered when a vengeful Indian chief takes him and his family hostage. Directed by Kevin James Dobson (5165503)

3.30 PLAYDAYS (222400) 3.50 *Pinocchio* (2614619) 3.55 *Bogie and Berger* (2034530) 4.10 *Ged Get Boy* (1785416) 4.45 *Record Breakers Gold* (78282313) 5.00 *Newround (T)* (7181057) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (T) (1623394)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (412042)

6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (481)

6.30 NEWS FROM THE SOUTH EAST (961)

7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE (T) (4139)

7.30 WATCHDOG: *Face Value* Alice Cooper takes a look at fashion and beauty issues. Includes *Tara Palmer-Tomkinson*, on how to start a fashion trend (T) (4145)

8.00 EASTENDERS Tony is forced to come to a compromise (T) (5679)

8.30 THE BRITANNIA EMPIRE Plans for a staff review receive a mixed reaction (T) (2394)

9.00 NEWS (T) and weather (7574)

9.30 PANORAMA In the first of two films, Steve Bradshaw investigates the alarming increase in drugs-related crime (T) (502959)

10.10 RUBY WAX'S GIRL TALK Compilation featuring some of Miss Wax's most memorable interviews, including Goldie Hawn, the Duchess of York and Pamela Anderson (T) (56042)

10.40 SILENT WITNESS (T) (689425)

WALES 10.40 *The State* (671433) 11.40 *Silent Witness* (795223) 12.25 *FILM: Dark of the Sun* (888424) 2.10 *News*

11.30 FILM: *97 WITH BARRY NORMAN* Including *That Thing You Do, The Preacher's Wife, Ransom and The Ghost and the Darkness* (T) (55110)

12.00 FILM: *Dark of the Sun* (1986) starring Rod Taylor and Kenneth More. A mercenary escorts an armoured train loaded with diamonds through war-torn West Africa in the 1980s. Directed by Jack Cardiff (93135)

1.40am WEATHER (2465649)

2.00am *VIDEOPLU* and the *Video PlusCodes*

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are *Video PlusCode* numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a *VideoPlus*™ handset. To find out more, call *VideoPlus* (171), *PlusCodes* (170) or *VideoPlus* (171). *VideoPlus* and *VideoPlus* are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am OPEN-UNIVERSITY

The Necessity For History (4207071) 6.25 *History, Writing and Unwriting Testimony*

(4450435) 6.55 *An Historian at Work*

(4450435) 7.15 *See Her Breakfast News*

(6166564) 7.30 *Help! Is It the Hair Bear*

Bunch (279891) 7.55 *Blue Peter (T)* (7)

8.00 *Pinocchio* (311740) 8.25

Harry Jerome (8507659) 8.35 *Lessie*

(3549771) 9.00 *Daytime on Two: TV: The Road* (23935) 9.30 *Pathways of Belief*

(388313) 9.45 *Religious Starters*

(3883865) 10.00 *Playdays* (468816) 10.30 *Landmarks* (5692289) 10.50 *Look and Read* (5778229) 11.10 *Zig Zag* (516716) 11.30 *Ghostwriter* (3461) 12.00

Bible in Animation (36400) 12.30 *Working Lunch* (83042) 1.00 *History File* (8021595) 1.20 *German Globe* (7797222) 1.25 *Landmarks* (5030869) 1.45 *Storytime* (4400851) 2.00 *Pinocchio* (8688222) 2.05 *Harry Jerome* (9689153)

2.10 FILM: *Comered* (1945, b/w) with Dick Powell and Walker Steeze. A former pilot crosses Canada in search of the Nazi collaborator responsible for his wife's death. Directed by Edward Dmytryk (767232)

3.55 *PLAYDAYS* (222400) 3.50 *Pinocchio* (2614619) 3.55 *Bogie and Berger* (2034530) 4.10 *Ged Get Boy* (1785416) 4.45 *Record Breakers Gold* (78282313) 5.00 *Newround (T)* (7181057) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (T) (1623394)

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1.40am WEATHER (2465649)

2.00am *VIDEOPLU* and the *Video PlusCodes*

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2.10pm *THE LEARNING ZONE* (The Planet Earth) 1.00 *Measuring The Earth and Moon* (1.30 Moton — Newton's Laws) 2.00 *Landmarks* 4.00 *Italia 2000* 5.30 *Science Master Classes* 5.30 *RCN Nursing Update*

5.30pm *THE NET* A new series of the computer magazine presented by Benjamin Wooley and Fenella George (8051454)

6.00pm *THE MIDNIGHT HOUR* (36424)

6.30pm *THE LEARNING ZONE: The Planet Earth* 1.00 *Measuring The Earth and Moon* (1.30 Moton — Newton's Laws) 2.00 *Landmarks* 4.00 *Italia 2000* 5.30 *Science Master Classes* 5.30 *RCN Nursing Update*

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مكتبة عن الأصل

Captain's log: Branson charts his balloon flight

PETER NICHOLLS



Back on terra firma: Richard Branson calling on a mobile phone after *Virgin Challenger* landed in the desert in Algeria. Earlier, he ignored desperate attempts by his command centre to contact him as the balloon plummeted

'Hurtling down, seconds left, we soar up again'

JANUARY 7: LAUNCH



06.00: Woke up after five hours' sleep. God knows when I will sleep again. I hear the distant sound of the dawn muezzin: the Muslim call to prayers. A good omen.

06.10: I telephone Tim Evans, my doctor, to check on Ron.

06.45: Ring Alex [Ritchie] to confirm he is on. He has

brought only enough clothes for one day. I agree to lend him a spare set of underpants and glasses.

06.50: Write a letter to Holly and Sam [Mr Branson's children]. "Life seems rather unreal at times. Alive and well and loving one day and no longer the next." I ask Tim to give it to them if we don't come back.

08.00: Everyone has gone to the launch site. Holly has not left my side in the last 24 hours. She is a jewel.

08.45: My first glimpse of the balloon. An awesome sight, towering above the city.

09.00: We sweep into the airfield. Half the Moroccan National Guard seems to have turned out in our honour.

10.15: It is hard to say goodbye to Dad whose eyes are filled with tears. He is 79. Mother, as usual, is as strong as an ox but presses into my hand a letter to open six days into the flight. She is being sentimental at last. Holly is as ever smiling and happy. Sam is enthralled. At last they are old enough to understand and enjoy my adventures. Then Sam breaks down. It is one of the hardest moments.

10.50: We enter the cabin and strap in. After 18 months of preparation I have a gut feeling it is going to be a success. I try to ignore the growing sense of apprehension.

11.15: Per begins the count-down. "Ten, nine, eight" — I barely hear him say "one" as the explosive bolts are released. The whole thing shakes and twists. It feels like it is going up incredibly fast. This is the most dangerous time. My hand is on the lever of my parachute.

11.23: 10,000ft. I look out of the hatch door which is still open. The snow-capped Atlas Mountains are rising up to greet us. At 10,000ft we shut the hatch. We are on our own.

12.22: We reach 30,000ft.

Everything is going to plan.

12.35: Per sinks into a fit of depression. He passes me a message from the ground. It's the first mistake. We cannot release the six one-tonne propane gas tanks which are a vital last resort for our ballast. Per is ashen. If the balloon does not work at nightfall, we will plummet with no way of dropping the fuel tanks. I am grateful we have been alerted.

13.30: The second shock. We are heading for restricted military air space near Béchar in Algeria. A message says: "You are not repeat. You are not authorised to enter this area."

16.36: Discover in my diary a message from my son. He had sneaked it in before I left. I will always treasure it.

16.40: Fantastic news. A new fax. We can transit Béchar airspace. The Algerians have only one concern: we might be cold. They wish us luck.

18.00: Per starts the burners, at 30,000ft, to keep the helium warm to maintain altitude.

19.05: We start to descend. We study the dials. We fall 500ft the first minute, 600ft the next.

Not too worried. We burn more propane. Still cannot hold the descent: 800ft, 950ft, 1,250ft a minute. Something is

spilling out. Something is terribly wrong. I throw out food, water supplies, anything I can lay my hands on. Oil cans next. Our supplies are gone. The dream is over. I just want to live. We level out for a few minutes. It is a temporary respite. The descent resumes. I have cheated death 11 times. My life no longer flashes before me. I just want to get us out of this.

19.20: I push Alex up on to the roof at 8,500ft for the last time. We are falling, fast. We continue falling. But we are falling faster, not slower.

19.30: At 15,000ft we are falling at 2,000ft a minute. At this rate we will hit the ground in minutes. No one panics. I'm desperately looking for rope to tie round Alex. He straps on his parachute. I ask: "Have you parachuted before?" My god. He hasn't.

19.35: At 12,000ft we depressurise and manage to open the glass-topped hatch. I feel my ears pop. I am dimly aware that the satellite phone and fax are furiously ringing. Per shouts: "Dump everything."

19.40: At 11,000ft we are falling at 1,000ft a minute. We are falling at 2,000ft. Per throws the explosive bolt with 2,000ft left.

One tank drops away. We soar into the air. What a wonderful feeling. I put my hand on Alex's shoulder.

Richard Branson kept a diary of his attempt to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon, which failed after 20 hours. The forced landing of the *Breitling Orbiter* yesterday underlines the difficulties that Mr Branson was facing. He wrote the log before the launch of the *Virgin Challenger*, during quiet moments in the capsule, and in Algeria. He completed it on his return to London. This is an edited version of the diary.

19.45: Thank God you're with us, Alex."

19.50: The needle goes down, steadies, turns and starts to rise. It touches 19,000ft. We start twisting. We steady. We start dropping again. We bleed fuel from one of the other propane tanks. It settles again at 10,000ft.

20.00: We have still not spoken to command centre. Something bizarre is happening. The temperature outside is freezing but the balloon starts to rise.

20.45: Wake up Alex. He examines the fuel gauges. We have unknowingly leaked

350kg of propane from a second tank. We level at 26,000ft. I have caught Rory's flu. Go to the loo again. No one packed any loo paper. Can only go when we have had a fax. I feel cold, have a dry throat. I'm thirsty. If I get out alive I am never doing this again. I recall Alan Coren's story about the English gentleman who felt there must be a more civilised way to swim across the Channel. He arrives in style in a Rolls Royce with strawberries and champagne and announces: "My man will swim across the Channel for me." Maybe that is a better way of doing it.

22.00: Come down to 10,000ft once the fuel tank has emptied. We are heading for the Saharan Atlas mountains between Morocco and Algeria. We decide to risk flying across them. The capsule is in a mess. Per is lying down looking up from the bunk. He looks like a corpse. We still don't know if we are going to make it. Alex is positive. He is like a young boy who has been given the keys to a sweetshop. Every moment is the biggest thrill of his life.

23.00: Decide against sending a message back to base. I don't want them alerted until I know my family is safely asleep and we are over the

To Dad
I hope you
have a great
time.
Safe journeys
Lots + Lots
of Love
your Son Sam
XX ♥ ♥ XX

Sam Branson sneaked a message into his father's diary

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We land safely and dance for joy

JANUARY 8



01.15: Send message to base. "Had a serious problem. Will have to abort flight. Managed to keep enough ballast to enable us to land. Plan to land at dawn in Algerian desert. Here is to all of you who tried so hard to make it happen, Richard." They will be shattered.

04.00: Complete a controlled descent from 26,000ft to 7,000ft. The mountain range is ahead of us. We rise to 9,000ft to clear it. We know we have to land within the first 30 minutes of dawn, breaking or the sun will take us up to 30,000 feet again.

06.30: We have cleared the mountains into Algeria as the sun rises. The scenery is breathtaking. Pure Lawrence of Arabia. Beautiful dawn rich sun rising across the desert. It is parched wilderness. We are dropping at 300ft a minute. I don't want it to end.

07.00: Coming in to land. Turn the cameras back on. We hurdle across a low crop of mountains. Nothing in sight.

07.15: We come in with a bump at 250ft a minute. It was a solid bone-shaking landing. The second we hit the ground, Per releases the explosive bolts and the balloon wafts into the air. Alex is screaming with joy. We throw our arms round each other. We feel like we have landed on the moon. We dance arm in arm around the capsule.

07.35: I remember the civil war in Algeria when I see four turboprop dots approaching. I shook hands with each of the men, who bowed and said: "Allah." I said very firmly to each: "Allah." One or two other nomads appeared but ran away. I felt like I had landed on the moon. They had never seen a balloon before.

07.50: An official, with an armed guard, approaches. He speaks good English. We ask for the armed guard to wait with us. We get on the satellite phone. Alex first. Then me. Joan answers. She is thrilled. I speak to Holly and Sam. I am looking forward to seeing them tonight.

09.45: We hear the roar of three helicopter gunships overhead. Rescue is at hand. Men with machine guns spew out. I am convinced they are friends. The local governor has invited us for lunch. We politely decline. We want to go home. The

colonel asks for our passports. I graciously accept the invitation.

10.20: Driven in an armed motorcade, with sirens wailing, through traffic lights and road blocks. We think it is going to be a 20-minute journey. Three hours later we arrive at the governor's home, which is like an armed fortress.

13.20: Alex is right. The Algerians are being hospitable. We will never be there again. We should make the most of it.

13.30: Lunch. We had been out of phone contact for hours. One consolation at least. Going to the loo. I should have known better. It was a hole in the ground and there was no toilet paper. Then we get a message that our chase plane had tracked us down. They are given permission to land 80 miles away. A helicopter is coming to pick us up. At last we are going home.

15.30: We made it on to the plane, clicked our seatbelts on, when a colonel came on board and announced: "No one is going to get us home. The local governor has invited us for lunch. We politely decline. We want to go home. The

© Richard Branson

Speedy whale leaves scientists trailing in its wake

By NICK NUTTALL

THE fastest whale in the world may be a humpback that has astonished scientists by making a record-breaking migration from Alaska to Hawaii, covering 2,775 miles in 39 days.

Normally whales take an average of 102 days to make the trip. But this one – known only as 339 – cut the average time by 63 days.

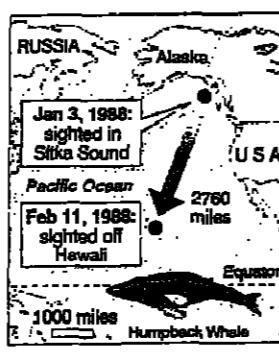
Janice Straley, one of the scientists who documented thefeat, said yesterday: "Other fast migrations we have had are 79 to 80 days – but nothing as fast as this."

The record-breaking dash

is even the more surprising given that humpbacks are not the greyhounds of the sea. "If you look at other baleen whales like the blue, fin or sei, they are sleek. But humpbacks are rotund with knobs on and look like a slug rather than a bullet when they are swimming," Ms Straley, of the University of Alaska South East, said.

Peter Evans, a whale expert at the zoology department of Oxford University, said yesterday: "It's a very fast time. Quite spectacular."

The swim was discovered by Alaskan and Hawaiian



scientists researching into the north Pacific humpbacks which feed off capelin, herring, krill and plankton off southeast Alaska before migrating to the warm waters

of the Hawaiian islands to breed.

Humpbacks make the journey because the waters near the Arctic are rich in food but the young are born with little or no fat. They are less likely to survive in the cold waters of Alaska," said Ms Straley, whose team's findings are published in *Marine Mammal Science*.

Long-term monitoring has shown that the estimated 900 humpbacks off southeast Alaska can be told apart by unique black and white patterns on the underside of their tail flukes.

Ms Straley photographed on the last day it was present in

Alaskan waters nor on the first day it arrived in Hawaii," the team says.

The record for the longest swim by a man is held by Fred Newton who, in 1930, swam 1,825 miles along the Mississippi River, spending 30.91 days in the water and averaging 2.4 mph. But unlike 339, Mr Newton had numerous rests and the journey was staged over five and a half months.

Humpbacks and other baleen whales such as grays can reach speeds in excess of 5 mph.

It is unlikely that the whale was photographed on the last day it was present in

Alaskan waters nor on the first day it arrived in Hawaii," the team says.

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David Wetherell of the National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, Washington, said toothed whales, such as orcas and other marine mammals such as dolphins could reach about 40 mph.

But these speeds are in short dashes and the mammals do not go on long migrations. Humpbacks make one of the longest documented migrations of a marine mammal, underlining the achievement of 339's trip.

The scientists believe the finding may have important consequences for the conservation of the north Pacific humpbacks, *Megaptera novaeangliae*.

It may be that this whale is

unique or that other humpbacks make fast migrations too but have never been seen.

If other whales in the area are making such journeys, it means humpbacks are in Alaskan waters for at least nine months of the year.

So there should be tougher controls on drift net fishermen and companies that carry out blasting to build harbours, experts believe.

As for the record-breaking whale 339, its whereabouts are now unknown.

"I have only seen the whale once – but the whale has also been seen in Mexico. He or she gets around," Ms Straley said.

Man fled cleaver killer in vain

By LIN JENKINS

A BUSINESSMAN was repeatedly hit about the head with a meat cleaver as he ran through his home, trying in vain to escape his murderer police disclosed yesterday.

Keith Forster, who owed money to creditors, struggled to flee the attack after being set upon in his kitchen on Friday. Police say that blood was splattered throughout his bungalow in Stevenage End, Essex. They believe his killer used a meat cleaver from among Mr Forster's kitchen knives. Mr Forster was a keen cook.

Mr Forster, 52, had financial worries and had recently given up his interest in a local wine bar. His catering supplies company had closed and he had debts of thousands of pounds. His marriage had broken down recently, with his wife taking their daughters to five ten miles away.

Detective Superintendent Clive Seal said: "This was a frenzied attack, and the worst of its kind I have seen." He appealed to anyone who might have seen someone covered in blood to contact the police.

Initial inquiries will focus on Mr Forster's business associates. Police say that since there was no sign of a break-in, he could have known his murderer. He was found by his girlfriend when she arrived home on Friday evening.

Wrinkle evidence gives a new line of attack on smokers

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PROOF that smoking makes people look older than their years has been found by scientists studying the skin of identical twins.

The skin of regular smokers is up to 40 per cent thinner than the skin of genetically identical sisters and brothers who do not smoke. It means that long-term smokers are more likely to have wrinkles and other cosmetic signs of ageing than someone who has shunned cigarettes, cigars and pipes.

The findings, by a team at St Thomas's Hospital in London, offer health campaigners and the anti-smoking lobby a new and potentially powerful weapon in the education war against tobacco use, especially among the young.

A spokesman for the Health Education Authority said: "If health warnings about dying don't reach youngsters, maybe we can appeal to their vanity. We know that young people respond to images relating to their personal attractiveness."

A third of young women in Britain aged 16 to 24 are regular smokers, an increase of 5 per cent since 1994. Among young men of the same age, 34 per cent smoke. Twelve per cent of children

aged 11 to 15, and a third of those aged 15, are smokers.

Dr Tim Spector, head of the Twin Research Unit at St Thomas's, said yesterday: "Most young kids don't listen to warnings about lung cancer but they might be worried if they thought they were going to look older."

The findings have come from a study of twins as part of a wide-ranging research into disease and genetics. The scientist found 25 pairs of identical twins where one twin smoked and the other had not.

In theory, any difference between an identical twin should be due to their environment and lifestyles rather than being genetic. A new ultrasound technique was used to gauge their inner arm skin thickness.

It was found that the smokers' skins were an average of a quarter thinner than the non-smokers. In a few cases there were differences of up to 40 per cent.

The damage is highlighted by Morey Cornick and Carol Deller, identical twins aged 57. The scientists found that Morey, who has smoked since her teens, is not considered a heavy smoker, had skin just 0.57mm thick, in comparison

with a measurement of 0.91mm for her sister. Special imprints of her face found that Morey's face had more wrinkles and fewer pores.

Dr Veronique Bataille, the dermatologist involved in the tests, said that there were several theories to explain the results: "Smoking can affect the blood supply to the top layer of skin and that would damage it.

"Another way is that a chemical released in the skin after you smoke can release an enzyme that breaks down collagen and elastic tissue." Smoking might also damage the genetic material in skin cells, which could in turn affect the skin's properties, she said.

Dr Spector added: "It's always been known from observation that smoking makes you age more quickly but this has never been demonstrated in much scientific detail before. Doctors say they can recognise smokers' faces because they look more wrinkled and haggard."

The message from this research is, before you take up smoking, think whether you want to look much older than you are, and have weaker and more wrinkly skin."

Police and sheriff's officers move on the stockaded camp in the way of a £65 million road scheme

Night raid destroys road protesters' camp

THIRTEEN road protesters were arrested yesterday after a nine-hour operation to clear their camp from the path of a £65 million road scheme. Twelve were among demonstrators who had locked themselves into tunnels and bunkers on a stockaded hilltop and the

thirteenth was held for non-payment of fines. A hundred police and 45 sheriff's officers took part in the nine-hour operation, which started at 3.30am. Once the tunnels had been cleared with the help of underground specialists, heavy machinery made them unusable.

The Trolbheim camp was one of three built to oppose a 13-mile scheme between Easter and Honiton. The first camp, at Allercome, was cleared on December 27. Trevor Coleman, the under sheriff of Devon, would not say when the last camp, at Fairmile, would be cleared.

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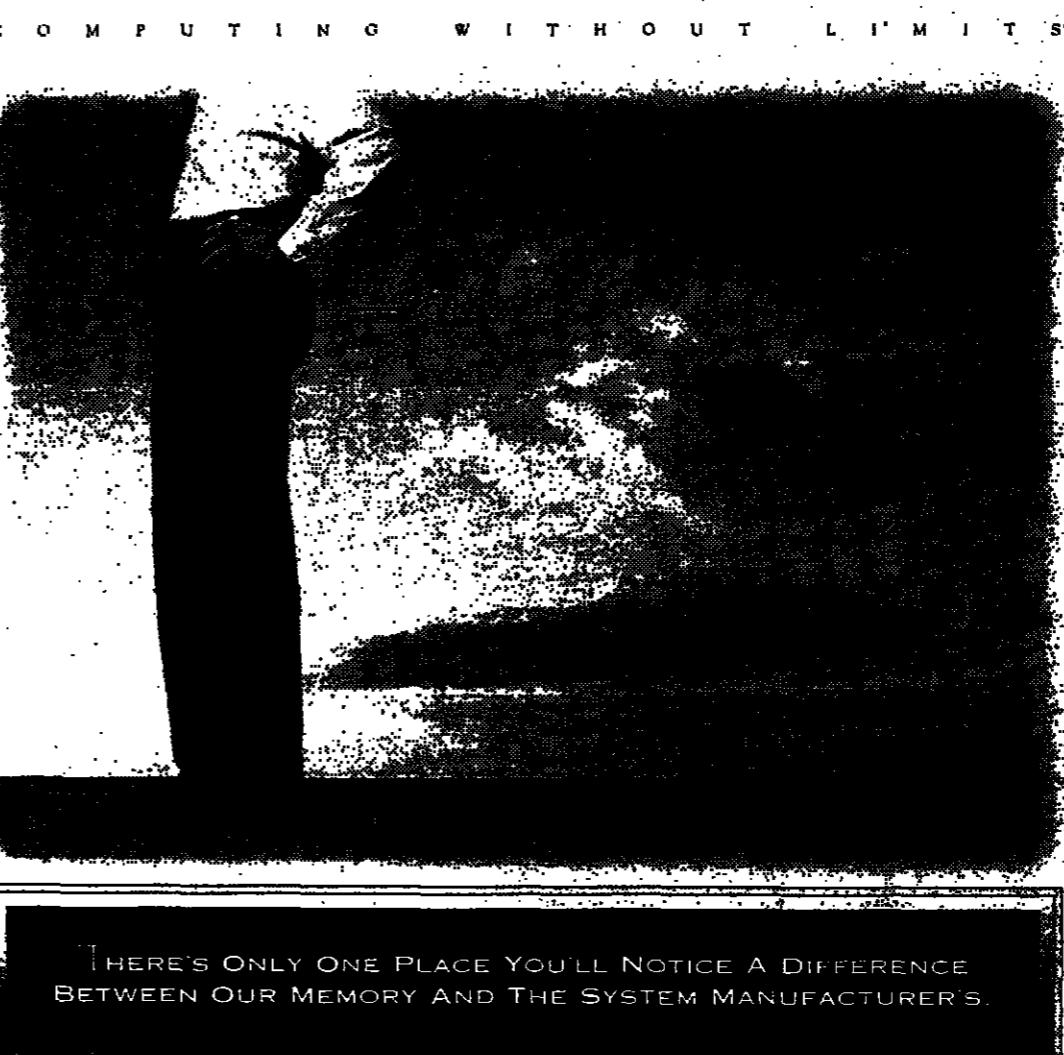
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